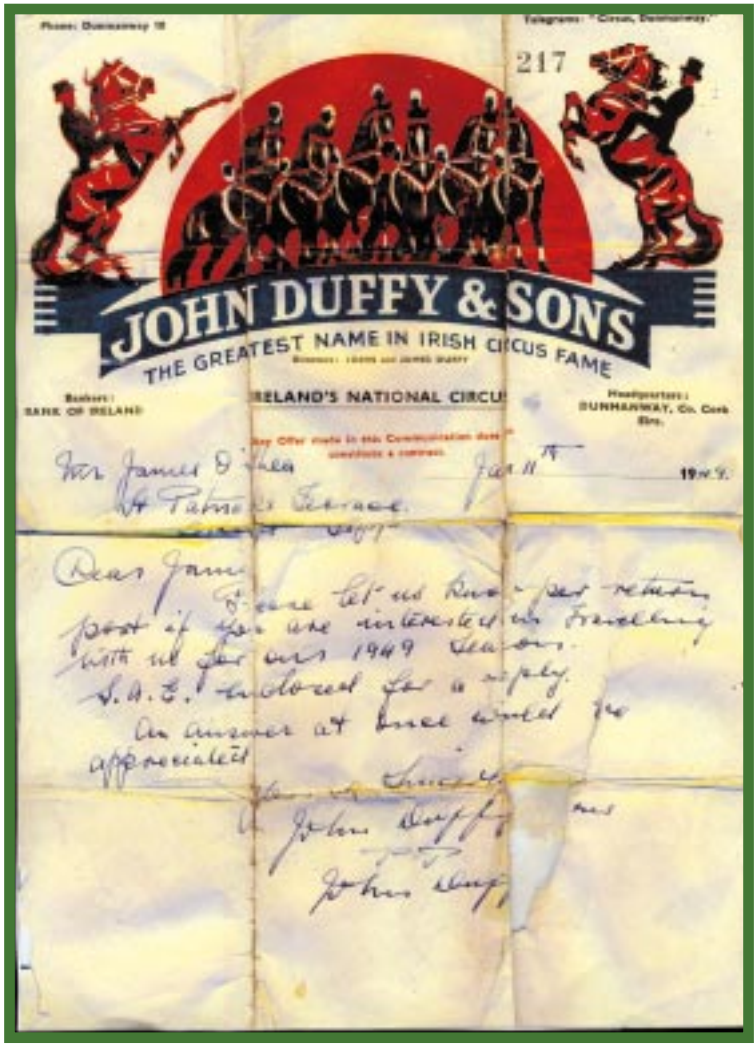
# Fethard & Killusty

## NEWSLETTER '98

PRICE £4

www.fethard.com




## SHOW BUSINESS

Above is a most interesting 50 years old showbusiness letter written on Duffy Circus headed notepaper which was sent to Jimmy O'Shea, St. Patrick's Place. The letter asks if Jimmy is interested in renewing his touring contract with the circus band for the 1949 season. A brilliant trumpet player Jimmy who had played with the No 1 Army Band, had, with brother Paud and Billy Mackey also from Fethard, toured previously with the circus. Jimmy with his father and five brothers had played with the old Fethard Confraternity Brass Band and played with the Twilight Serenaders dance band prior to emigrating to England where we are glad to report he is still going strong.

# FETHARD & KILLUSTY NEWSLETTER 1998

Dedicated to our friends and relations
living away from home

Copyright © 1998

Published by the Fethard & Killusty Newsletter
ISSN 1393-2721

Layout and design by Joe Kenny, Kenny Photo Graphics, Fethard
Printed by Modern Printers Kilkenny

All rights reserved. No parts of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the author.

# Table of contents

Acknowledgements . . . . . 5
A forgotten graveyard . . . . . 31
A mother's memories of Fethard . . . . . 24
A room with a view . . . . . 33
Abbey Christmas greetings . . . . . 4
Abymill — The Mill (Fethard) Ltd . . . . . 55
Annsgift — Memories of home . . . . . 73
Annual Newsletter Contacts . . . . . 128
Artist in Residence . . . . . 20
Augustinian Abbey Restoration . . . . . 42
Back to Britain on the Mail Train . . . . . 62
Blame the Normans . . . . . 68
Bring on the clowns . . . . . 36
Catering for your laundry . . . . . 79
Census of Ireland 1841 . . . . . 119
Church of Ireland News . . . . . 4
Clashawley Pirates . . . . . 99
Clergy in the parish . . . . . 10
Convenience Shop . . . . . 115
Dancing couple featured on television . . 79
Day Care Centre . . . . . 80
Deaths in the parish . . . . . 10
Designer Rosemarie Walsh . . . . . 114
Donations Received . . . . . 126
Fethard & District Credit-Union Ltd . . . . 77
Fethard & Killusty Community Games . . 64
Fethard and Killusty Angling Club . . . . . 39
Fethard and Killusty Muintir Council . . . 80
Fethard Athletic Club . . . . . 28
Fethard Badminton Club . . . . . 109
Fethard Ballroom . . . . . 29
Fethard Bridge Club . . . . . 55
Fethard connections . . . . . 122
Fethard Country Market . . . . . 72
Fethard Historical Society . . . . . 45
Fethard Irish Farmers Association . . . . . 83
Fethard Judo Club . . . . . 49
Fethard Juvenile GAA . . . . . 86
Fethard Macra na Feirme . . . . . 123
Fethard Open Coursing Club . . . . . 87
Fethard Players . . . . . 88
Fethard Senior GAA Club . . . . . 67
Fethard's Brasserie . . . . . 118
First Emigrants' Newsletter . . . . . 5
Gladiator H I-One . . . . . 95
Greetings from Fethard . . . . . 3
Highways and Byways . . . . . 100
I never got my name on the bottle . . . . . 89
I.C.A. Fethard Guild . . . . . 35
If I could paint a Picture . . . . . 99
Irish Red Cross Society . . . . . 98
Irish Volunteers 1914 . . . . . 121
John Cantwell, Poet and Patriot . . . . . 50
Kilnockin snaps from the 1940's . . . . . 19
Killusty Soccer Club . . . . . 41
Lament for an Irish Mother . . . . . 99
Legion of Mary . . . . . 30
Let the shoemaker stick to his last . . . . . 84
Marriages . . . . . 12
Meals on Wheels . . . . . 94
More videos for hire than ever . . . . . 122
My young life in Knockelly . . . . . 91
My Youthful days in Killusty . . . . . 105
Nano Nagle Primary School . . . . . 21
New local solicitor . . . . . 82
No particular place to go . . . . . 25
Our dear departed '98 . . . . . 11
Over 75 years trading . . . . . 104
Paddy Dalton Honoured . . . . . 120
Parish Christmas Greetings . . . . . 4
Patrician Presentation Parents' Assoc . . 117
Patrician Presentation School . . . . . 106
Photographs — past and present . . . . . 13
Racquetball revived in Coolmoyne . . . . . 94
Senior Citizens Club . . . . . 12
Sister Mary Rita from Killusty . . . . . 32
Sister Philomena steps down . . . . . 124
St. Bernard's Group Homes . . . . . 116
St. Patrick's Boys National School . . . . 102
St. Rita's Camogie Club . . . . . 57
Table of contents . . . . . 2
The Shore . . . . . 96
Thomas Lee remembered . . . . . 14
Thoughts from an Emigrant's Room . . . 110
Tidy Towns . . . . . 81
Tipperary's medieval graveslabs . . . . . 44
Tour de Fiodh Ard . . . . . 58
Trehy's Garage reopened . . . . . 78
Visitors to Fethard (photographs) . . . . . 40
Visitors to Fethard (more photographs) . . 61

# Greetings from Fethard

The Fethard & Killusty Newsletter is celebrating its 40th production with this issue. I would like to thank and acknowledge the work of the Legion of Mary members and all the extra non-Legion help that has kept this production alive and well since 1959. It was never an easy task, especially in the earlier years, to produce an annual newsletter and then deliver it to our emigrants. I can remember Legion members having to meet night after night just to address the envelopes alone. Thankfully, with new technology we can now print the address labels in five minutes. The production costs have increased over the years, as has our ever growing mailing list, so in order to survive it was decided in 1992 to sell the newsletter locally and acknowledge donations over £5 received. A look at the donation list will give you an idea of the support we gratefully receive from home and away. Thank you.

Over the past few years the Legion of Mary have eased their involvement with the production and, on 10th November 1997, they officially handed it over to the current production team: myself, Joe Kenny (editor), Carmel Rice (correspondence) and Brendan Kenny (mailing list). In the interest of consistency and stability we have also asked the following to help in an advisory capacity: Austin O'Flynn, Percy O'Flynn, Kathleen Maher, Agnes Allen, Christy Williams, Agnes Evans, Gus Fitzgerald, Gemma Burke and Tony Newport. All the above have had involvement with the Newsletter in the past.

On behalf of the above I would like to wish our emigrants and readers a very Happy Christmas and I hope you enjoy this our 40th issue.

*Joe Kenny (editor)*

*Pictured at Fethard GAA Club's Annual Dinner Dance held in Cashel on April 25th are L to R: Canon James Power P.P., Monsignor Christopher Lee and Fr. Ben O'Brien OSA (Prior).*

# Parish Christmas Greetings

That time of year has rolled around once again. We extend our greetings from Fethard to all those who are around the four corners of this world and whose hearts still have a place for Fethard and Killusty. As with any twelve months that have gone by we have had here times of sorrow and happiness. Each year brings with it time to say goodbye to those friends of ours who have left this world (until please God we all meet again), but there have been opportunities to say hello to the new members of our community, those born in 1998 and whose time here, with the help of the Lord, will encompass much of the new century which is around the corner.

As we ourselves approach the year 1999, we have a great opportunity to look back on times gone past, especially in regard to the last 100 years. There have been many changes over this time, some of benefit to all, others of a more negative nature, but nonetheless over this period many people's lives have greatly improved. Fethard and Killusty, along with the world, has changed dramatically. During this coming year of 1999 we will be seeing our locality as it is for the last time this century and this millennium. May we take this opportunity to invite you to come and see us at the turn of this new century and millennium.

Our prayer for you all, in whatever part of the world you may be, is that you may be safe and happy and as you continue along the road of life that God's blessing and gifts will always be yours in abundance.

*May each day be blessed for you.*
*May each hour be loved by you.*
*May each minute be precious to you.*

# Abbey Christmas greetings

*Fr. Ben O'Brien OSA*

The people behind this publication deserve everyone's thanks and not a little praise. Probably more than anyone else they keep the sense of the wider Fethard family alive both at home here and wherever you find yourself at the moment.

Christmas remains family time and the ties that bind us together are tightened and tested as we make the midwinter journey into a New Year. God walks all the steps with us and rejoices when we are happy just as He shares the sadness when we are sad.

May He bless you and yours at this sacred commemoration in time of His unstinted willingness to share in our lives. Jesus Christ, the Baby of Bethlehem, the Man of Nazareth is Lord of Heaven and Earth forever.

# Church of Ireland News

In May of this year Leslie Stewart, his wife Sandra and their children Alistair and Leigh-Ann left our parish to live in France. We wish them well in their new life. Congratulations to proud parents Julian and Patricia Ponsonby from London who christened their daughter Lindsey Rose Ponsonby in Holy Trinity Church, Fethard, on 21st of June 1998, and also to Geoffrey and Esther Smith from Killenaule who christened their son Garry on 30th August 1998.

We held a barbecue at Grove House on 27th September to raise funds for the Church. The setting was beautiful and the food provided was delicious. We would like to thank Michael and Marie Allen who provided the beef, chicken and sausage burgers and who also gave up their valuable time to cook. The music was provided by the local bluegrass band 'The Pheasant Pluckers' and was most entertaining. One even forgot about the steady rain while listening to them. The weather indeed was unfortunate but everyone who came enjoyed themselves. Again we would like to thank the people of Fethard for their support.

On the 10th October Jonathon Gilpin was commissioned as a 'Reader' in the Church of Ireland Diocese of Cashel and Ossory. We wish him well in his work. Our Sunday School was also well attended during the year with prize giving on the 11th of October. Millennium plans for restoring the church bell are currently being discussed. More details next year.

# Acknowledgements

*Joe Kenny (editor)*

I would like to thank all who submitted articles and photographs for this year's issue, especially our regular contributors and those who took the effort to write for the first time. Due to the limited space, some articles are held over until next year. On the production side, I would like to thank Gemma Burke for proofreading; Michael Hall, Drangan, for supplying interesting historical material on Fethard — enough for the next ten years; Carmel Rice for looking after donations and Brendan Kenny for keeping the mailing list up to date. I would like to thank Liam Cloonan for his 'local' articles and lastly, thanks to all who subscribed to our Church Gate Collection and those who make annual donations.

# First Emigrants' Newsletter — at last

The publication of the first Fethard & Killusty Annual Emigrants' Newsletter was a much discussed topic in Fethard over the past few years and many appeals were made for copies of the early issues if any still existed. This year our appeal was answered by Pat Shine, formerly from Crampscastle and now living in London. Pat and his brother Tom from Cahir called to Rocklow Road on a visit to Fethard during the year. After a long chat about times past Pat mentioned that he came across an old Newsletter in a drawer at his home in London. He wasn't sure of the date but promised to send a copy on his return.

To my delight, some days later I received the promised copy and, better still, it actually mentions the fact that it was the first attempt at sending a Newsletter from Fethard. It was dated on top, "Christmas 1960", but on checking the dates of the events and deaths featured in it, we discovered that they all happened in 1959. We can only conclude that the Newsletter was published in December 1959 and posted before January 1960.

The Newsletter consisted of one page printed on both sides and to mark this, our 40th publication, we now reprint, in the following four pages, the text of the first newsletter with some added photographs relating to the period.

## SPECIAL REPRINT OF FIRST NEWSLETTER 1959

### NEWSLETTER TO EMIGRANTS FROM FETHARD PARISH
**CHRISTMAS 1960**

### DEAR EMIGRANTS

This Newsletter comes to you our Brothers and sisters who have found it necessary to leave home so as to obtain employment. This is our first effort at sending a Newsletter to you. We hope that its contents will be of interest to you all as we send news of varied societies etc., which are working in our parish and some general news of the parish for the past year.

We the members of the Legion of Mary in Fethard wish you all a very Holy and Happy Christmas.

### PARISH CLERGY

Parish Clergy are very Rev. J. J. Cannon Ryan, P.P., V.F. Curates are Rev. Father T. Kennedy and Rev. Father T. Cooke. In the Augustinian Abbey Rev. Father E. Clifford, O.S.A., (Prior) and Rev. Father R.A. Bell O.S.A. Rev. Father Brennan O.S.A., has been recently transferred to Clarepriory in Suffolk, England to a foundation of the Augustinian Order opened in recent years. This is the first such Foundation since the Reformation when the Augustinian Order was suppressed in England.

### SCHOOLS

Brother Kieran who was Superior in Fethard has been transferred to Carrickmacross Patrician Monastery. He did very valuable work in the erection of the New Monastery in Fethard.

The results of the examinations were very good this year. William Harrington, Crampscastle won a County Council Scholarship. Miss Helen Fergus won Scholarship to the Munster Institute Cork.

*Fethard Patrician Brothers School Leaving Certificate Class Group 1959. Front L to R: Rae Molloy, Richard Butler, Tom Burke, Lory Dineen, Philip Ward, Tom Mackey, Eamon Maher and Damien McLellan. Back: Frank Hughes, Bro Albert Small, Mr. Timmy O'Connor (teacher), Tommy Healy and Sean Evans.*

## SPECIAL REPRINT OF FIRST NEWSLETTER 1959

*Fethard group pictured at the Pioneer Rally Croke Park 1959. Front L to R: Paddy Heffernan, Kathy Aylward, Mary Allen, Ann Tobin, Alice Stapleton, Carmel O'Rourke, Mary Tobin, Maureen Mockler, Nicky O'Shea, Paddy Whyte. Back L to R: Cookoo Walshe, Lolo Trehy, ?, Sean Butler, Sean Evans,?,?,?, Tommy Whyte, Jimmy Connolly, Jackie Aylward, Noel Whyte, Billy Kenny, Tommy O'Connell, Eddie Cormack, Dan Davis.*

The new Mary Immaculate Hall recently built by the Presentation Convent is a great asset to the children. Many nice plays and concerts were performed there during the year. The Pantomime "Babes in the Wood" was performed by the children on December 6th and 8th.

Mr. D. Byard, was appointed to the C.B.S., Carrick-on-Suir teaching staff. Miss Theodara Fergus took up teaching position at Alton Castle, Staffordshire, England. Mr. Joseph Fitzgerald, The Green, was appointed on the Automobile Association Road Service.

### VISITORS

Many emigrants were home this year from different parts of the world. Those included the following; Father John O'Flynn O.S.A., St. Monica's, Rome, Mother Benignus Power, New York, Mother Agnes O'Brien, New York, Sister Paula Carey, New York, Mother Helen Meehan, London, Mother Evangelist O'Brien, U.S.A., Sister Gabriel Stapleton, Wighton, Humberland, England. Brother Chrysestem Dineen, Patrician Brothers High School, Santa Monica, California.

### TENNIS CLUB

Fethard had a most successful season from the trophy winning angle. They won the Father Power Cup at Cahir for the second year in succession also won out their own Gibson Cup at Fethard.

The following were the teams; Mrs. B. Holohan, Misses Mary Goldsbrough, D. Schofield, O. Schofield, Carmel Brett, Marie McCarthy. James McCarthy, Donal O'Sullivan, Richard Willis, Pierce O'Flynn.

Pongo is played every Sunday night to pay for new pavilion in the Club.

### BADMINTON

The Badminton Club has been revived again and is being very well attended.

## SPECIAL REPRINT OF FIRST NEWSLETTER 1959

### G.A.A.

The Fethard Senior Football team did well and were unlucky to loose to Cahir Slashers in the South Final. The Coolmoyne Hurling team did very well in winning the South Junior Championship and beat the mid-Champions in the County Semi-final in Thurles. The Coolmoyne team beat the following teams on their way to Final Kilsheelan, St. Mary's Clonmel, Carrick-on-Suir Swans, Newcastle and Gortnahoe.

Coolmoyne Team was as follows: Goalkeeper – G. Danagher, Jimmy McCarthy, Jack Wall, Dick Wall, Joe Clarke, Tony Newport, Eamon Butler, Sean Walsh, Pat Woodlock, Liam Connolly, Gus Neville, Seamus Hackett, Sean Clarke, Cly Mullins. SUBS; Michael O'Brien, Tony Woodlock, Michael Flanagan, Jimmy Treacy, Sean Gunn, Pat Leahy.

Fethard footballers have beaten Mullinahone and Kilsheelan selections in the Tipperary Mans Cup and are now in the final of this competition.

The members of the team in the South Final were: Tony Newport, Bill Meaney, Liam Condon, Jimmy McCarthy, Sean Connolly, Liam Connolly, Pat Woodlock, Lea English, Cly Mullins, Sean Moloney, Gus Neville, Jimmy O'Shea, Sean Gunn, Austin O'Flynn, and Percy O'Flynn. SUBS: Jim Cooney, Michael Keane, Jimmy Connolly.

Gus Danagher is hitting the high spots in Dublin Hurling Circles. He hopes to play with Coolmoyne next year. He is at present playing with U.C.D.

Liam Connolly was the first Fethard Hurler to win an All Ireland Senior Hurling Medal with the County. He also won a Hurling League Medal and played in New York in the St. Brendan Cup Match. During his visit in New York he met many Fethard people.

*Coolmoyne Junior Hurling team taken in Clonmel in 1959 before playing Newcastle. Front L to R: Michael Coady, Joe Danagher, Sean Clarke, Seamus Hackett, Liam Connolly, Eamon Butler, Joe Clarke, Cly Mullins, Gus Neville, Pat Woodlock. Back L to R: Nicky O'Shea, Patsy Dickson, Michael Flanagan, Pat Leahy, Billy Morrissey, Mickey O'Brien, Mickey Fitzgerald, Jack Wall, Tony Newport, Jimmy Treacy, Tony Woodlock, Jimmy McCarthy, Dick Wall and Sean Walsh.*

# SPECIAL REPRINT OF FIRST NEWSLETTER 1959

## DEATHS

*During the past year the following were called to their eternal reward:*

*James Hanrahan (Sr.) Kerry Street*
*Patrick O'Flynn, Burke St.*
*William Finn, Burke Street*
*Miss Freda Danagher, Kilnockin Rd.,*
*Richard Allen, Barrack St.*
*Simon Cantwell, Market Hill.*
*Thomas Hackett, Coolmoyne*
*Thomas Slattery, St. Patrick's Place,*
*Mrs. E. Stapleton, Cashel Rd.*
*Patrick McDonnell, Main Street.*
*Sean Morrissey, Main Street,*
*Mrs. Nora Gough, The Valley.*
*Mr. Patrick O'Brien, The Valley*
*Patrick Houlihan, Barrack Street,*
*Mrs. M. Anglim Curraghscarteen*
*William Nagle, Crampscastle.*

## MARRIAGES

*Mr. Lawrence Trehy, Annsgift and Maura Evans, Congress Terrace*
*Mr. E. O'Mahony, Cashel and Laura Ward, Kerry St.,*
*Mr. J. Croke, Ballingarry and Noreen McDonnell, Main St.*
*Mr. D. Butler, Thurles and Kitty Hayes, Rathcoole,*
*Mr. J. Hayes, Rathcoole and Marg. McCarthy, Burke St.*
*Mr. D. Noonan, Drangan and Alice Shine Crampscastle.*
*Mr. J. Murphy, Cashel Rd. and Doreen Leahy Kilnockin Rd.*
*Mr. J. McMahon, Tipperary and Noreen Ward, Kerry St.,*
*Mr. M. Halley, New Inn and Miss C. Slattery, Kilnockin*
*Mr. D. Walshe, St. Patrick's Place and Miss P. Hayde, Ballinure.*

## DAVERN'S HOTEL

Davern's Hotel which was unoccupied for many years has been purchased by Mr. John O'Shea, Main Street, Fethard. The premises are now being renovated.

## MUINTIR NA TIRE

The following are the Officers for current year:- President – Very Rev. J. J. Canon Ryan, Chairman – Rev. Father Kennedy C.C., Vice Chairman – Rev. Father Cooke, C.C., Secretary – Mrs. O'Brien, Main St., Treasurer – Mrs. O'Byrne, Main St.,

The Guild started a club for men and boys in the lower section of the Tirry Club. The Club was visited by many of our emigrants who were home on holidays last Christmas.

Mrs. O'Brien and Mrs. P. J. Coffey are members of the County federation of Muintir Na Tire.

## PATRICIANS

The Patricians were started last April and monthly meetings have been held since. Different subjects were discussed and a paper was read each night by a lay person. Subjects varied from "Problems of Teenagers", "Films", "Why Marry in a church" etc. The participation was very good. This is an excellent means of getting people to talk about their religion and see the Catholic point of view. There are points left unanswered by those present.

## PIONEERS

The Pioneers from Fethard and Killusty were well represented at the Jubilee celebrations in Croke Park in June.

# Deaths in the parish

The following is a list of deaths that occurred in the parish during the year. We have also included many of the deaths (from information supplied) that occurred away from Fethard. We have also included, in brackets, the place of funeral service if known. A list of Fethard deaths over the past ten years can be viewed on the internet at: www.fethard.com/people/deaths.html

*Anglim, James (Jimmy), Farranaleen (London)*
*Burke, Bill, Grove and England (England)*
*Carroll, Patrick 'Patie', Miltown (Powerstown)*
*Cashman, Sarah, Fr. Tirry Park (St. Patrick's Clonmel)*
*Clarke, Joe, Crampscastle (Calvary)*
*Coffey, Eileen (nee Buggy), Main St. & Dublin (Peppardstown)*
*Condon, Sharon, Slievenamon Close & Clerihan (Clerihan)*
*Conway, Johnny, Coleman Cross (Old Ballyclerihan)*
*Corbett, Fergal, Roebucksland (Calvary)*
*Croke, Mai, Main Street (Calvary)*
*Dahill, Paddy, The Valley (Calvary)*
*Doran, Patrick, Rathkenny (Cloneen)*
*Fahy, Bridie, Leixlip, Tullamaine (Leixlip)*
*Fitzgerald, Mary, Crampscastle (Moyglass)*
*Fitzpatrick, Elizabeth (Bogue), Rocklow Road (England)*
*Fitzsimons OSA, Fr. Joseph, Athenry & Fethard (London)*
*Gorey, Dick, Main Street (Calvary)*
*Hayes, Seamus, Main St. & London, (Calvary)*
*Hartigan, John, Grawn (England)*
*Healy, Gobnait, Monroe and Bunclody (Bunclody)*
*Horan, Michael, Jossestown, (Powerstown)*
*Kenny, Monica (nee Kenrick), Greenville (Calvary)*
*Kenrick, Joe, Fethard and Clonmel (London)*
*Long, John, Killerk and Fr. Tirry Park (Calvary)*
*Looby, Denis, Ballybough (Holy Trinity Fethard)*
*Maher, Gus, Coolenure (Moyglass)*
*McCarthy, Dick, Burke Street (Calvary)*
*McCarthy, Mary, Main Street, Fethard (Holy Trinity)*
*McCormack, Mick 'Toby Boy', The Green (Calvary)*
*Meagher, Bridie (nee Phelan) Crampscastle (Birmingham)*
*Millet, Jim, St. Johnstown (Killusty)*
*Mullins, Annie 'Dot', Fr. Tirry Park (Calvary)*
*Murray, Pat, Killusty (Killusty)*
*O'Connell, Frank, Burke Street (Calvary)*
*O'Donnell, Bridget, Kilnockin (Calvary)*
*O'Donnell, John 'Cutsie', Slanestown (Calvary)*
*O'Donnell, Margaret, Killusty (Lisronagh)*
*O'Gorman, Michael, Saucestown (London)*
*O'Keeffe, Mai (nee O'Flynn), Mallow & Main St. (Mallow)*
*O'Meara, Rita, Knockbrett, (Moyglass)*
*O'Rourke, Noreen (District Nurse) Essex (England)*
*O'Shea, Lizzie, Coolmoyne (Calvary)*
*O'Shea, William, Coolmoyne (Calvary)*
*O'Sullivan, Donal, (Chemist) Main Street (Calvary)*
*Ryan, Biddie (nee Morrissey), Fr. Tirry Park (Calvary)*
*Ryan, Dick, Coolmoyne (Calvary)*
*Sharpe, Bill, St. Patrick's Place (Calvary)*
*Shine, Mark, Congress Terrace (Calvary)*
*Tobin, Kitty, Grove and Fr. Tirry Park (Killusty)*
*Treacy, Jimmy, Barrettstown Cross (Calvary)*
*Wade, Frank, Cloran, Killusty (Killusty)*
*Walsh, Jimmy, The Green and England (England)*
*Watts, Tess (nee Cummins), St. Patrick's Place (England)*

# Clergy in the parish

The following clergy are serving or living in the Parish of Fethard and Killusty: Canon James Power P.P., Rocklow Road, Fethard; Fr. Sean Ryan C.C., Cashel Road, Fethard; Fr. Ben O'Brien, Prior OSA, Augustinian Abbey, Fethard; Fr. Michael Twomey OSA, Augustinian Abbey; Fr. John Meagher OSA, Augustinian Abbey; and Fr. Joseph Hourihane OSA, Augustinian Abbey.

# Our dear departed '98

*from available photographs*

*Mary Fitzgerald*

*Bill Sharpe*

*Mon Kenny*

*Frank O'Connell*

*Bridget O'Donnell*

*Donal O'Sullivan*

*Denis Looby*

*Dick McCarthy*

*Lizzy O'Shea*

*Mark Shine*

*Biddy Ryan*

*Fergal Corbett*

*Dick Ryan*

*Mick 'Toby' McCormack*

*'Dot' Mullins*

*Gus Maher*

*Joe Clarke and Johnny Conway*

*Kitty Tobin*

*Seamus Hayes*

*Mary McCarthy*

*Paddy Dahill*

*Gobnait Healy*

*John 'Cutsie' O'Donnell*

*Dick Gorey*

# Marriages

***Weddings in the parish***

*Dermot O'Donnell, Grangebeg, to Pamela Morrissey, Cashel Road, Fethard.*
*Michael Spillane, Tullamaine, to Sandra Wade, Killusty.*
*Michael Houlihan, Carrick-on-Suir, to Mary McGarry, Woodvale Walk*
*Aidan Morrissey, Kilkenny, to Claire O'Brien, Grangebeg.*
*Eamonn Phelan, Kilkenny, to Mary Jane Carroll, Burke Street.*
*Paschal Hickey, Moorestown, to Mary Burke, Main Street.*
*Anthony Wall, Clonmel, to Sophie O'Connor, Knockelly.*
*Michael O'Mahoney, Clonmel, to Mary Ryan, Tullamaine.*
*Paula Delany, Parson's Hill, to Martin Brunt, Rutland, England.*

***Weddings outside the parish***

*Patrick Morrissey, St. Patrick's Place, to Helena McGrath, Carrick Beg.*
*Mark Lonergan, The Square, to Ann-Marie Ogrodowski, San Francisco.*
*Denise Maher, Abbey Street, to John Sheehan, Westmeath.*
*Michael Phelan, Coolmore and Tina O'Donovan, Clonmel.*
*Patrick Croke, St. Patrick's Place, to Joan Carry, Drogheda.*
*Joseph Keane, St. Patrick's Place, to Kathryn Pendlebury, Manchester.*

# Senior Citizens Club

Our club is still going strong with new members joining us each month. This year we enjoyed our cruise on the 'Galley' from Waterford to Inistioge, followed by evening meal at the Carraig Hotel. Tuesday is our club night and we are always eager to see new faces. Our Annual Christmas Party was held in the ballroom on 13th December. All senior Citizens welcome. Sadly we have lost some members during the year R.I.P. We would like to wish our families and friends a Holy Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thanks to all who in any way helped to make our club a success.

*Jack Maher visiting his two sisters in London. L to R: Jimmy and Joan Walsh, Catherine and Jack Maher.*

# Photographs — past and present

***Coleman National School Excursion to Tramore 1955***

*From Back: Tony Woodlock, Michael Breen, John Looby, David Burke, Maureen Moclair, Pauline Curran, John O'Dwyer, Thomas Whelan, Francis Cronin, Peter O'Connell, Mary O'Dwyer, Rena Moclair, Margaret Griffin, Tom Griffin, John Griffin, Billy O'Flynn, John Whelan, Tony Curran, Noreen O'Halloran, Margaret Dobbyn, Jimmy Spillane, Austin Woodlock, John O'Dwyer, Jack Moclair, Patricia Spillane, Marie Lee, Joe O'Connell, Ann Moclair, Eithne O'Donnell, Micky Burke, Tom Hanrahan, Connie O'Connell, Billy Whelan, Joe Spillane, Alice Whelan, Ann Whelan, Michael O'Dwyer, Michael Woodlock, Tom Lee, Claire Moclair, Michael Conway, Amy Spillane, Joanne O'Dwyer, Mary O'Halloran, Danny Curran and Richard Looby.*

***Golf Outing to Dungarvan 1998***

*Members of The Well Golf Society photographed on one of their regular golf outings.*
*The Well Bar, formerly run by Seamus Cummins in Burke Street, is now owned by Mick Smyth. The bar's 'golf society' has a large membership and organises regular outings to courses around the country.*

# Thomas Lee remembered

*Tom McCormack*

Set between two palms about three-quarters of a mile out the Cashel Road from the town of Fethard, a memorial cross stands forlorn and uninviting. You would indeed be excused if when travelling that road it failed to catch your attention. On the bend of the road and more or less back from the boundary fence it is surrounded by a white tubular fence in need of painting. It clearly brings into focus the grief and profound sadness that links young men with the ultimate sacrifices made by quite a number during the War of Independence. A quick scan at the base of the cross will, in black writing, tell you briefly who this man was. It says: "Erected to Vol. Thomas Lee, B Coy. B.N.T., N3 Tipp Brig. Who was shot by Crown Forces near this spot March 4th 1921, aged 20 years R.I.P. This, I think you will agree, is a very brief history of a man's life and should not be glanced over in a facile manner. The observer would have to ask himself under what circumstance did this young man yield up his spirit at the corner of a Brodeen meadow.

*Thomas Lee (Born 3 November 1900 - Died 5 March 1921)*

There are very few people alive today who can reveal what happened on that March morning, but I can quite clearly remember my own mother speak of Lee being brought into town on the day of the shooting. As my family lived across the street from where he was employed she was quite used to see him coming and going about his work. She was, however, stunned that day when a horse and dray passed by the door carrying Lee, whose body was at full stretch lying face downward and on his stomach. He was wearing riding breeches and brown boots — attire not uncommon to the Volunteers — and his right leg rose and fell every few seconds as if in great pain. A group of "Black and Tans" plus R.I.C. men circled the dray. This group was led out by the local R.I.C. Sergeant whose name was Clancy. The horse and dray had been commandeered earlier by the R.I.C. Later that day he was transferred to Tipperary Town Military Hospital but it is thought that he died on the way.

In "Recollections of the Fight for Irish Freedom - 3rd (South) Tipperary Brigade" by Vice O/C Sean Fitzpatrick Adjt. Lee's

death is mentioned in just one line in the memoriam list: Thomas Lee - Fethard, killed by Crown Forces – NR. Fethard (Clerihan).

At this point several questions can be asked about Thomas Lee such as, how long had he served with the Volunteers? How active was he? Was he ranked? All these questions are answered in a statement by Captain Paddy Ryan, B. Coy 1st Battn. 3rd Brig., a close friend of Lee. In this statement Captain Ryan relates his recollections of that period and indeed mentions Lee on a number of occasions at meetings and when called for active service.

Opening his statement, Paddy Ryan recalls how a chosen few met at Downey's Barn, Crampscastle, Fethard in the early summer of 1917, the idea being to form a company of volunteers in Fethard and district. The main speaker at the meeting was Commandant Paddy Hogan, 2nd Battalion, and at that meeting he (Paddy Ryan) was appointed Captain of the Company, James Keating of Brookhill was elected 1st Lieutenant, James Tierney of Fethard was elected Company Adjutant and Tommy Lee was elected Company Quartermaster.

Captain Ryan goes on to tell about an incident which happened while the 'Irish Party' supporters were celebrating on The Square, Fethard, on the night of the declaration of the poll in the famous Waterford by-election. The Volunteers got involved in a fracas and two nights later were taken into custody. They were sentenced to three month's imprisonment each and taken to Waterford jail. In Waterford the volunteers joined other political prisoners on a hunger strike in support of a demand to be treated as political prisoners. After five days on hunger strike they were transferred under R.I.C. escort to Belfast prison to complete their sentence. While away, Paddy gave great praise to Tommy Lee and a man named Jerry Whelan for keeping the Company together.

Further on in his recollections Paddy mentions an incident near Downey's Cross at which he, Tommy Lee and Bill Quirke disarmed four R.I.C. men:

*"It was, I think, shortly after my return to Fethard following this trip to Liverpool that an incident occurred by which we secured four revolvers for the company and a motor car for the battalion headquarters. Our company was then "B" Company of the 1st. Battalion, 3rd. Tipperary Brigade, and Jerome Davin of Rathsallagh was the Battalion Commandant.*

*The late Senator William Quirke was then a member of my company. In a hotel in Fethard he overheard four strange R.I.C. men talking. They had a motor car outside and Quirke learned from their conversation that they were going to Mullinahone. He came to me at once and suggested that we go to Downey's Cross and hold them up there.*

*I was slow to consent as I thought we should consult the Battalion Commandant first. Quirke was impetuous and in his brisk manner said, "Come on, we will do it". So, having sent word to Tommy Lee to come to Downey's Cross as soon as possible, I went with him. We were both armed with revolvers. Downey's Cross was ideally situated for the job as there was a double sharp turn on the road and the car would naturally have to slow up there.*

*We had not long to wait for the arrival of the police. From behind two trees we called on them to halt and to put up their hands. To give them the impression that there was a large party of men present Quirke shouted in a loud voice,*

*"Right half company, present arms". The policemen made no attempt to resist but meekly put up their hands. At this point Tommy Lee arrived on the scene. On searching the policemen we got four more revolvers, all of small calibre. We then marched the four R.I.C. across some fields and put them in a cowhouse and fastened the door by a bolt on the outside. Leaving Tommy Lee to remain on guard on them, Quirke and I drove the car to Rathsallagh House – the home of the Battalion Commandant – and left it there. Later that night Tommy Lee silently withdrew the bolt from the door of the cowhouse and came back to Fethard. Later still the four policemen returned to the town, and the military then came out in force and searched for the motor car but without success."*

In October 1920 both Ryan and Lee accompanied Tommy Donovan by cycle from Silverfort to Killenaule on their ill-fated trip to execute the well-known and notorious Lieutenant in charge of the British forces. This event ended in a severe set-back with the death of Commandant Donovan, shot from close range after a brief gun battle. Tommy Lee escaped without injury but Paddy Ryan received a bad leg wound which put him out of active service for quite a number of months. His return, however, brings the story full circle to that fateful day when he and Lee spent the previous evening on the run.

The following is from the statement made by Captain Ryan:

*"One night in March 1921 Tommy Lee, who I have frequently referred to before, and I slept in the haybarn of Coffey's House near Fethard. About 11am next morning we went into the kitchen of the farmhouse for a meal. While we were there the house was surrounded by R.I.C. men and Black and Tans.*

*The first intimation we had of their presence was when we saw some of them pass by the kitchen window. Lee was armed with a Lee Enfield rifle and a Webley revolver and I had two Webley Revolvers. Lee fired through the windows at the Police who then sought cover and fired back through the windows. An employee of the household, a Miss Nellie Walsh, directed us to a large window at the back and after firing a few shots at the police who were still under cover at the front, we left the house by this window. At the back of the house we saw one R.I.C. man who appeared to be busy righting his rifle which had jammed. We reached a field between the Rosegreen and Cashel Roads and here we came under fire from the police at the farmhouse. I could see that they were concentrating their fire on a gap in the field. I headed towards the Rosegreen Road and reached it in safety.*

*For some reason known only to himself Tommy Lee went towards the Cashel Road and as he crossed a field he was shot dead by the fire of the police. I went on to the Battalion Commandants house at Rathsallagh near Rosegreen and reported to him what had happened, of course when I got to Rathsallagh I had no idea that Lee had been shot, that news arrived later that afternoon".*

There is, however, one man still hale and hearty who remembers the sad happenings of that day. Jack Flynn of Lower Main Street, a young boy at the time, can recall with clarity what occurred that spring morning. *"After crossing the road near Danaghers, Tommy ran up beside the road. He was unable to get out at the corner of the field because enamel signs had been placed in the ditch to prevent*

***Erection of Thomas Lee Memorial at Cashel Road 1959***
*BackLto R: Paddy Fitzgerald, Lar Donovan, Joe Coffey, Jack Cummins, Frank Burke, Jimmy O'Flynn, Joe Lee, Christy Lee, Gerry Lee, Johnny Pollard, Ned Donovan, Paddy O'Keeffe, John Smith, Eddie Lawless, Jim Boy Danagher. Centre: John Keating, Billy O'Flynn, Davy Ahessy, Paddy Ryan, Larry Lee and Tim Tierney. Front L to R: Jack Ahessy M.C.C., Mick Coen and Mick Fleming.*

*animals coming out on the road. Tommy then moved out into the field and went to cross through a hole that had been made by dogs. The 'Tan' however got on to the ditch near Danaghers and shot him twice in the back. That particular day I was with his brother Christy and we went up to the Military Barracks to see him. People were going in and out there all that evening. Later, my father, Ned Lonergan and myself went to the spot where it happened, close to where we lived in Glenagaddy. There was not much to see but drops of fresh blood that remained on the damp grass."* Jack was also of the opinion that he died on the road to Cashel Hospital.

The Nationalist newspaper gave a brief account of the affair under the headlines: *'Fethard Shooting - Death of Wounded Man'. "Later accounts of the shooting of the young man Lee, who was dangerously wounded at Brodeen near Fethard Railway Station on Friday, state he was accompanied by another young man who, it is alleged, is also on the run. They were called on to halt but did not do so and were fired on.*

*It also stated that Lee was wounded in the hip by one of the first shots from the volley, but continued running towards Ballintemple where he received another wound in the back and collapsed. The other young man, it is stated, got away uninjured.*

*A man named Murray was passing along the Cashel Road with a common horse and cart, this was commandeered and Lee was brought to Fethard Military Barracks. Dr. Stokes was quick in attendance but despite his greatest efforts no hope was entertained of his recovery from the start.*

*The Very Rev P.C. Ryan anointed him as he was being conveyed from the scene of the shooting and was in constant attendance on the dying boy who was 21 years of age and one of a large and respectable family. The end came this Saturday Morning at 2.30am. Much sympathy is felt for his bereaved parents and relatives. A military inquiry will be held."*

The official report from Dublin (issued Dublin Saturday) came under the heading: *'A Fugitive from Justice'* – *"At*

*noon yesterday Thomas Lee, for some time a fugitive from justice, was shot by police in Brodeen, Cashel district, when attempting to evade arrest. His wound is not serious. He is at present in Fethard Military Hospital. A rifle, revolver and ammunition were found on him."*

Again under the heading: *'Fethard Shooting'* and referring to the funeral of Thomas Lee, The Nationalist printed the following report of the event in its issue dated Wednesday 9th March 1921.

*"The funeral of Mr Thomas Lee, the young man who met his death near Fethard under such tragic circumstances, took place on Tuesday and was a remarkable demonstration of public sympathy. The remains were conveyed by motor to Cashel on Tuesday from Tipperary (where a military inquiry was held) and thence by hearse to Fethard.*

*All Shops and Banks were closed and blinds drawn on Tuesday morning. A guard of honour of volunteers watched by the coffin as it lay in the church. The coffin was covered by the tricolour. Solemn Office and High Mass was offered up for the repose of his soul at 10'o'clock Tuesday. The officiating clergy were: Very Rev, P.C. Ryan P.P., V.F.; Very Rev. Fr. Crowe, Prior, OSA; Rev. J. Russell C.C.; Rev. R.W. Noonan C.C.; Rev. Fr. Brady OSA; Rev. Fr. Walshe OSA.*

*During the evening of Monday and all Tuesday morning thousands viewed the remains in the church. The coffin had a glass panel through which the dead boy's face and shoulders could be seen. There was a crowded attendance at the Funeral. Interment took place at Clerihan. The Volunteers and members of the Cumann na mBan wore mourning badges."*

Tommy's death certificate states the following: Died on 5th March 1921, Fethard Military Hospital. Aged 20 years. Occupation: grocer's assistant. Cause of Death: shock and haemorrhage due to bullet wound received on March 4th 1921, died about 24 hours later. Certificate issued by Court of Inquiry held at Tipperary Barrack, Co Tipperary on April 6th 1921.

There are, of course, many who would say that this episode was indeed a sheer waste of a young life, others would say he was a hero. A young man who had given his blood for his own people, after other Irish men had fought for the freedom of other nations. Why shouldn't Lee be entitled to fight for Ireland and the Revolution?

I stand to be corrected but wasn't it the greatest revolutionary who said, "No greater love hath any man than to lay down his life for his friends". One may say that there is no parallel between Christ's words and what happened to Tommy Lee but they had at least three things in common. They were both young men, they were both against the system that existed and they both died violently.

For those of us who are alive today and awaiting a final and peaceful solution to the six county problems, perhaps we can say that Tommy Lee's sacrifice was not in vain. People cannot be denied freedom and justice on this Island. I think this is the lesson which should come from his death.

We should remember him, after all he was one of us – a Fethard man. So the next time you walk, cycle or drive on the Cashel Road, if you happen to catch a glimpse of the aforementioned half-hidden memorial, put yourself in Tommy Lee's brown boots and try and imagine his consternation as, with young heart

pounding, he raced for his life in a desperate attempt to avoid the 'Black and Tan' bullet.

The Co. Meath war poet, Francis Ledwidge, on the death by execution of his great friend Tipperary man Thomas McDonagh, wrote what is now accepted as his greatest work — his poem aptly called, *'A lament' or 'Thomas McDonagh'*. I'm pretty sure McDonagh would not mind sharing it with Tommy Lee.

*He shall not hear the bittern cry*
*In the wild sky, where he is lain*
*Nor voices of the sweeter birds*
*Above the waiting of the rain.*

*Nor shall he know when loud March blows*
*Thro' slanting snows her fanfare shrill*
*Lowing to flame the golden cup*
*Of many an upset daffodil.*

*But when the dark bow leaves the moor*
*And pastures poor with greedy weeds*
*Perhaps he'll hear her low at morn*
*Lifting her horn in pleasant meads.*

# Kilknockin snaps from the 1940's

*supplied by Monica Wynne (nee O'Dwyer), Clonmel.*

*Clockwise from top (1): Nora (Dwyer) Hogan and daughter Mary. (2): L to R: Monica and Rita Dwyer, Hannie and Monica Dwyer, Bridie Leahy. Child in pram Pat Leahy, Doreen (RIP) and Thomas Leahy. (3): Monica Dwyer (with in-fashion headscarf) and Phill Danagher. (4): Grandfather Johnny Dwyer who worked as gardener in the Presentation Convent and collected money offerings at Parish gate during Sunday Mass.*

# Artist in Residence

*by Denise Farrell*

*Artist in residence Pat Looby working with Nano Nagle Primary School pupils*

The beginning of the Easter term in the Nano Nagle Primary School, Fethard, saw the dawning of a new 'Artist in Residence' project introduced by the National Arts Council and headed by local artist, Pat Looby.

In response to being approached by a member of staff at the Primary School, Pat decided to begin this ten week programme which aimed at embodying the children's creativity through their task. Pat's initial idea to develop the children's playground area stemmed around the concept, "to expand the children's visual arena and claim it as their own."

Pat had sent her proposal to the National Arts Council in October and by Easter had received a positive response. The project started at the beginning of the Easter term. The first three weeks of the project were spent gathering and learning about materials and methods, and focused initially on classroom activity and just talking to the children. Basic game structures were introduced and with Pat's plans unveiled the children began collecting materials to work with. These included broken toys, buttons and tins.

Much excitement had broken out among the school's one hundred and sixty pupils, all of whom were to play an invaluable role in the success of the project. Each child had a designated role. Among the younger classes, junior and senior infants, ideas were painted and displayed within the school while the older children helped assist with the outdoor preparations.

Eventually ideas were completed and after much discussion, the practical work began. Some traffic cones were

acquired, so too was rubberised road marking paint, to establish game plans on the playground while glue and silicon would be used for assembling the broken toys and other materials together. Pat had in the meantime, also acquired materials from a factory in Waterford which manufacture pieces for M.B. games.

After a lot of imaginative fun and a lot of hard work, the grand opening of the project took place on Thursday, 18th June. This was attended by both proud parents and other interested members of the community. On completion much was achieved. Through the drawings, paintings and the sculptural inventions in the playground, the children have learned much in a fun way through the medium of art. The focus on play and games gave the children a relevant initiative to work at this project and also involved them in the assemblage.

Both the children and Pat seemed extremely pleased on the completion of the project. For the children it was a fun project which at the end, left them with a whole new world in their school playground, and it gave Pat an insight into the imaginations of children. While talking to me she also commented on the opportunity that this project gave her, as both an artist and teacher, to delve into the minds and imaginations of children. For most adults any route into a child's thoughts is precious and it is often through the medium of art that this can be achieved.

Pat Looby is a Graduate of the Crawford College of Art and Design in Cork where she lived for a number of years. She now lives in Fethard where she teaches. As an artist, her success has been demonstrated by her many exhibitions, the latest of which took place in 1995 in conjunction with the Crawford Municipal Gallery.

Every year several schemes throughout the country are partly funded by the National Arts Council. These schemes have come to play an important role in developing the artistic endeavours of people, both young and old, while also providing the community with an invaluable service. Well done all.

*This article was written by Denise Farrell, Ballyclerihan, while employed under the Fethard Historical Society's Summer Student Scheme.*

# Nano Nagle Primary School

Staff members: Sr. Maureen Power, Principal (3rd and 4th class), Mrs. Patricia Treacy Vice-Principal (senior infants), Sr. Mary McNamara (5th and 6th class), Ms. Maureen Maher (2nd class), Ms. Margaret Gleeson (1st class), Ms. Rita Kenny (junior infants), Ms Mary Hanrahan (remedial), Ms. Ann Ryan (resource teacher).

This year we are delighted to announce the arrival of a new staff member, Ms. Ann Ryan, Clonmel. Ms Ryan is our resource teacher and she works with those children who have special needs and/or specific learning difficulties. Her appointment is of major benefit in our endeavours to aid these children who are most in need of extra help and support.

As usual, our school year was eventful, challenging and, above all, we hope, enjoyable for both pupils and staff. The school year began with our annual school Mass in November – delayed 'til then in order that our junior infants will be settled enough to participate. This was pre-

ceded by our annual cake sale which was a major success thanks to the wonderful support of parents and our Board of Management. Throughout the year, our Parents Association proved most supportive of all our ventures and all appeals for assistance ranging from monetary to manual were met with a most generous response. Our thanks, to all involved.

Christmas was celebrated in the Abymill Theatre with two most engaging plays from the junior classes, ably assisted by the 'big girls' (3rd-6th Classes) who provided chorus, lights, sound and lots of help backstage and throughout rehearsals.

The concert programme comprised: 'Sleepy Santa' starring junior infants, senior infants, 3rd and 4th classes. 'The Magic Christmas Tree' starring senior infants, 1st and 2nd classes. 'Christmas Carols' 5th and 6th classes accompanied by Una Prendergast, Miriam Carroll and Elaine Casey on keyboard.

A major innovation this year is our computer room which now boasts the grand total of ten computers, one sponsored by

*Starting school in Junior Infants class at Nano Nagle Primary School Fethard are Back L to R: Ms. Rita Kenny (teacher); Faye Manton, Main Street; Dean Sharpe, Woodvale Walk; Eugene Walsh, The Green; Mary Anne Fogarty, Garrinch; Tony Myler, St. Patrick's Place; Simon Standbridge, Saucestown; Michael Smyth, Burke Street. Third Row: Ronan Fitzgerald, Monroe; Mary Jane Kearney, The Green; Jamie Walsh, St. Patrick's Place; Ger Maher, Kilnockin; Jane Holohan, Grangeduff; Louis Rice, Everardsgrange; Zoë McManus, The Valley. Second Row: Ciarán O'Meara, Woodvale Walk; Claire Morrissey, Slievenamon Close; Darren Moloney, Kerry Street; Amy Lyons, Woodvale Walk; Ted Barrett, The Green; Louise O'Donnell, Slanestown; Brian Delahunty, Castlehiggins. Front Row L to R: Rachel Prout, Derryluskin; Mary Ellen O'Reilly, Barrack Street; Gareth Lawrence, Woodvale Walk; Orla Lawrence, Woodvale Walk; Deirdre Dwyer, Ballygambon; Jenny Pyke, Woodvale Walk; and Gavin Lonergan, Woodvale Walk. Missing from photograph are: Amanda Ryan, Slievenamon Close; Noel O'Brien, Redcity; Shauna Brett, Congress Terrace; Andrew Maher, Woodvale Walk.*

*Nano Nagle sixth class 1998. Back L to R: Sr. Mary (teacher), Helen Frewen, Rosanne Meaney, Lucy O'Hara, Susie Harvey, Emma O'Connell, Sarah Costello. Middle Row L to R: Tracey Lawrence, Danielle Lawrence, Mary Gorey, Ruth Corcoran, Linda Kenny, Susan Sayers, Stacey Grace. Front L to R: Evelyn Fogarty, Amy Quigley, Vicky Dorney, Kathleen Cawley, Tracey Coady, Siobhán Prout, and Melissa Rochford.*

Telecom, one from Dept. of Education and Science, two donated by Seagate following their closure in Clonmel, and the other six purchased over the last few years thanks to our fundraising activities. All classes are timetabled for computer training and we are confident that our pupils will indeed be computer literate for the millennium.

The Parents Association once again organised the June 'Fun Sports Day' which is now such a high point on our school calendar. Inclement weather merely proved a minor hiccup and with all activities rerouted indoors the fun proceeded unimpeded. A great time was had by all!

This year our school tour took us to Dublin Zoo, Dublinia (a re-enactment of Medieval, Dublin) and Blanchardstown Shopping Centre for the ubiquitous shopping without which no day out, it seems, is complete!

The highlight of the year for our school was undoubtedly the Artist-in-Residence project sponsored by the Arts Council and funded by our ever-present Parents Association. Local artist Pat Looby worked with all the classes in the school for the final school term, and her presence was inspirational for both pupils and teachers. A resounding 'thank you' to Pat for affording us all the chance to partake in such a wonderful creative experience.

Throughout the year our pupils took part in many competitions and these are our prizewinners: Thurles Co. Library Book Festival: Sarah Hayes, Dave Gorey, Nicola Gleeson, Owen Healy, and Donna Burke. Clonmel Show: Aimee Smyth, Kelly Coady, Aisling Dwyer, Philip Doyle and Charlene Burke. Fethard Chrysanthemum Show: Tracy Cody, Mary Gorey, Sarah Hayes and Niamh Cannon. Art Competition sponsored by Kenny's Centra, Fethard: 6th

Class: Helen Frewen, Sarah Costello and Danielle Lawrence. 5th Class: Aoife Nagle, Kate Hanrahan and Gillian Breen. 4th Class: Donna Ryan, Samantha O'Brien and Denise McGrath. 3rd Class: Sinéad Delahunty, Jenny Anglim and Donna Burke. 2nd Class: Charlene Burke, Lisa Anglim and Aisling Breen. 1st Class: Lorraine Cannon, Lesley O'Meara and Shauna Stapleton. Senior Infants: Darren Thompson, Jane Kenny and Orlaith Delany.

Our school year has now come full circle as we break for Halloween having just held a most successful October cake sale, which raised £801.96 for school funds. We would like to finish by once again thanking everyone who helps us in our various undertakings – the Parents Association, the Board of Management, our various generous sponsors and the wider community. To all our pupils past and present, we wish a very happy and holy Christmas '98 and for 1999 – an interesting year ahead.

# A mother's memories of Fethard

*by Peg Healy*

The five of us have Fethard imprinted on our hearts — my brothers, sisters, and I grew up listening to stories of our mother's happy years there. Our mother, Jo Byrne, was born in Fethard in 1885. She often described those now distant days — attending classes in the convent, singing in the Augustinian Abbey, playing camogie, bicycling to Cashel, visiting Clonmel, teaching piano, and joining the Cumann na nBann. We also heard about the Old IRA, the Barracks, the Black and Tans, and curfew — fascinating history lessons.

*Ned Cummins and Paddy Barrett at home on holidays in the 1950's*

Our mother described The Green, Burke Street, Main Street, the shops, and FRIENDS. We know from her stories that friendship was the keystone — the rock of Fethard. Her 'many Fethard friends' corresponded with her throughout our mother's life. Her best friend was Katie (O'Shea) O'Meara, who visited us one summer. We heard about so many other friends, and met some of them — John and Ned O'Shea, Gus O'Flynn, Ned Cummins, Madge Kenrick, Ciss O'Donnell, Mae Goode, the Grady's, the McCarthy's, Tom Healy, Paddy Barrett and many more.

In 1924, fate brought Jo Byrne to visit an uncle in Elizabeth, New Jersey, for a 'short vacation'. There she met a Kerryman, an Elizabeth police officer — a whirlwind courtship and her life was forever changed. She did live happily-ever-after with our father, but until she died in 1980, she spoke lovingly of Fethard. Some of our family, including two of the many grandchildren, visited Fethard in 1984 and 1986. We attended mass in the Abbey, walked around the town, and enjoyed a delightful visit with Jo (Barrett) O'Connor. It was a wonderful, sentimental journey.

# No particular place to go

*by John Fogarty*

*Killing time on Kerry Street Bridge in the 1960's are L to R: John O'Donovan, Jim Maher, Liam Leahy, Joseph Fogarty, John Fogarty, John Nagle and Eamon Keane.*

It is a close, cloudy evening in June and the ancient town of Fethard is lying in a state of near hibernation. Nothing much stirs along Main Street just some pigeons lazily descending from the roof of Miss Toppin's decaying old house and a cloud of flies whirring around an erratic trail of drying cow dung scuttered unashamedly along the street by John Halpin's cows as they ambled sedately along on their twice daily journey through the town — a smiling John gently coaxing them along. A whistle blast and the faint rattle of hurleys carries through the dead evening air — Ballingarry and Killenaule are engaged in a hurling match – cum – faction fight in the Barrack Field. A car approaches, sitting in the rear like some chauffeur–driven elder statesman, is the thin figure of John Scully, proprietor of a hardware store and licensed premises on Main Street. 'Toby' Napier and I stare gloomily after the car as it travels along the empty street. We are anticipating another uneventful evening, the Sixties are swinging but Fethard, it seems, is slowly expiring. 'Toby' desperately tries to drag a last lungful of nicotine from the tiny butt of a Will's Wild Woodbine. We are propping up the doorjambs of 'Ma' Brien's unique chip shop, a kind of haven for the male teenagers of the town. Its main attraction is the ancient Juke-box that it boasts. Here we can lounge around the Juke-box in budding Beatle fringes, drainpipes, pointed-toe shoes, smoke Woodbines, boast of girls and imaginary conquests, dream of escape to London and Carnaby Street, listen to the music of the Beatles, the Stones and the Kinks, and all the while 'Moll' keeps watch behind the counter, peeling potatoes for chips, and preparing her speciality — greasy crubeens — for the customers who will come unsteadily through the doorway after closing time. Right now the sound of the Animals blares from the Juke Box with several raucous voices bawling along. A football table heaves and bucks to the promptings of four players who spin handles, send balls rocketing into pockets whilst arguing incessantly over every score and every move

is mimicked in a huge mirror which overlooks the table. Outside, 'Toby' flicks the butt away and sighs, "Sure we'll have the Carnival next week". Billy Treacy pushes the door open, "Any leg around"? he asks hopefully, looking into the street. "Leg" hoots 'Toby', as the chorus from the Animals blares across the desolate street seeming to echo our secret thoughts — "We gotto get outa this Place….!!" Having "no particular place to go" four of us set of for a stroll and a few minutes later find ourselves standing warily on the downward flight of stairs which lead to the tennis courts behind Joe Coffey's house on Burke Street. This is forbidden territory so we pause there, listening, gauging. The soft thud of tennis balls on racquet strings comes drifting up the stairway and a girl's voice calling "our van, our van" which triggers a shuddering, tearful outbreak of laughter that worsens the more we try to control it. The laughter is brought to a sharp end by a series of urgent whistle blasts and an eruption of angry shouts from the Barrack Field which can mean only one thing — a row! Fethard Lawn Tennis Club is forgotten as we sprint away to the Barrack Field. We are spurred on by the sight of a togged-out figure, blood streaming down his flushed face, ringing the doorbell at Dr. Stokes' surgery. Alas, we are too late, both row and match are over. Across the field comes 'Ringo' Napier, a broken hurley under his oxter. "Ye missed a right row" he crows triumphantly, and proceeds to give an exaggerated account of fearsome pulling, split heads, broken fingers, pitch invasions, and threats on the life of the referee. "Stokes had to stitch six of them", he finishes with relish.

Disgusted at having missed such action we head back for The Square, pausing to watch a soccer match being

*Photographed outside the Ormonde Hotel, Clonmel, in the early 1970's are Front L to R: Adrian Cashin, Gerry Fogarty, Chris (Tobin) Nevin, Eddie Nevin, Kathleen Tobin. Back L to R: Patsy Morrissey, Billy Treacy, Liam Leahy, Joe Kenny and Pat Sheehan.*

*Photographed at Fethard Carnival in the early 1970's are L to R: Gerry Nevin, John Nagle, Eamon Keane, John Fogarty, John O'Donovan, John Tobin, Michael Allen and Frank Heffernan.*

played on the bald, clayey surface of the Canon's Plot. Tiring of this we continue to the Square where we seat ourselves on 'The Chair', the surface of which has been polished to a high sheen by an endless succession of idle backsides. Here we sit idling away the remainder of this June evening; talking, smoking, gawking. There is little enough to gawk at: John Sayers coming slowly home from an evening's fishing; the famed 'Electric Hare' from Barrack Street striding purposefully homeward wheeling her bike; a man in a new shiny 'home-from-England-suit' slipping into Lonergan's Bar. Traffic is rare — two lads from Moyglass on a Vespa scooter pulling up at 'Ma' Briens; a couple whom we know as 'Dynamite and Cinderella' roaring by on a large black motorbike, 'Cinderella' clinging shamelessly to 'Dynamite'; a deafening noise from Burke Street heralds the approach of Rodge Hannigan in the backfiring beat-up remains of a V.W. Beetle. Then as darkness creeps around us Jim Burke from Spitalfield comes pounding along – military style – in hobnailed boots. Halting abruptly he salutes us and at the same time loudly clicks his heels. "How's the reception Jimmy?" someone asks innocently, referring to the bed-end which Jimmy has erected as a T.V. aerial. "Terrible snowy, you sir", grins Jimmy, then pounds off towards Watergate.

Had there been a dance in the Town Hall we would have positioned ourselves on the steps of The Munster and Leinster Bank and observed the dancers waltzing and quickstepping past the windows and laughed ourselves sick as they 'Hucklebucked' and 'Twisted' crazily with red, ecstatic faces. But the Town Hall is dark and silent now so we sit there in the shadowy street as people pass home in ones and twos from the pictures. We are telling ghost stories now, stories of banshees, silver combs, silenced priests, cloven hooves, and men sprouting the devil's horns. In the gloomy, badly lit street shadow seems sinister, and the most outlandish stories seem perfectly plausible. On and on we talk until finally we have to part and we run off home to the comfort and safety of our beds as the old town lies sleeping beneath the pale and watching moon.

# Fethard Athletic Club

We had some great success at county, Munster and national level throughout the year with athletes participating at the indoors, track and field and cross-country championships. We have at present approximately 70 athletes registered and Miceál McCormack is club coach.

Our first outing in January 1998 was to Nenagh for the national indoor championships. Silver medals were won by Niall Maher, in the men's U/19 shot-putt and by Eoin Sullivan in the boys' U/15 300 meters while bronze medals went to Brian Sullivan in the boys' U/17 1500 meters and to Killian Connors in the boys' U/13, 60m hurdles. Mid-January saw us in Dundrum for the Munster senior and junior cross-country championships. Our U/17 girls' team of Avril Prout, Katie Lyne, and Elaine Williams were 2nd with the county team and 3rd in the club team event. Brian Sullivan was 2nd in the boy's U/17 county team.

In the county ladies' junior cross-country our U/17 girls' team of Avril Prout, Katie Lyne, Lisa O'Donnell and Elaine Williams won first team prize for the first time in the history of the club. On Feb 16th we travelled to the national cross-country championships in Armagh. Brian Sullivan who was on the county team got bronze in the boys' U/17 event while our girls' U/17 team of Avril Prout, Katie Lyne, and Elaine Williams also got bronze in the club teams event. On Sunday June 14th we hosted the county 10k road championship in Fethard in which Brian Sullivan won silver in the junior men's event over 3,000m. On June 20th we travelled to the R.T.C. in Cork for the Munster track and field champi-

*Members of Fethard Athletic Club pictured in the Tirry Community Centre Fethard at the presentation of the 1997-'98 season's medals. The presentation ceremony concluded with a reception for athletes and parents.*

onships. Eoin Sullivan captured two gold medals in the boys' U/15, 800m and 1,500m while his brother David got bronze in the boys' U/12, 600m. Niall Maher also got gold in the men's U/19 discus and silver in both the 100m and long jump while his brother Eoin received bronze in the boys' U/14, 100m and 300m. Silver medals were won by Stephanie Lawrence in the girls' U/9 80m, John Noonan in the boy's U/15, 100m and Killian Cannon in the boys' U/13, 300m. David O'Meara was 3rd in the boys' U/14 high jump.

At senior and veteran level Miceál McCormack was 2nd in the men's O/50, 100m and 3rd in the 200m and the 800m while Carmel Condon was 2nd in the ladies' O/35, 100m.

The national track and field championships were held in Tullamore during July and August. In the junior section we had Eoin Maher who won two silver medals in the boys' U/14 100m and 300m. At veteran, junior and U/15 level we had great success with Eoin Sullivan winning the boys' U/15, 1,500m. Eoin also won silver in the 800m, while his brother Brian captured bronze in the men's U/17, 800m. Carmel Condon won bronze in the ladies' O/35, 100m and Miceál McCormack was 3rd in the men's O/50, 100m, high jump and long jump.

We had a very busy year fundraising and would like to take this opportunity to thank most sincerely all who supported us. As a result we were in a position to purchase new singlets for our athletes. We also sponsored a trip for Brian Sullivan who was selected by our national coach, Dr. Orywal, for two weeks' training in Malta last April.

We wish all our athletes continued success for the coming season.

# Fethard Ballroom

The ballroom committee is as follows: Michael Ahearne (Chairman), Corina Morrissey (Secretary), David O'Donnell (Treasurer), Gay Horan, Paddy Hickey, Sean Spillane and Conor Maher.

The ballroom had a very busy year in 1998. It was in use every night of the week and at the weekend is alive with the sound of music, returning to its former days of glory, as on Sunday nights it is once again the Ballroom of Romance. Crowds gather to dance the night away, drink a lemonade or have tea and cake.

The ballroom's activities during the year included volleyball, indoor football, aerobics, as well as dancing of all kinds - Irish dancing, modern dance classes, and of course adult ballroom dancing.

The ballroom is used by various local clubs and organisations in particular the Scouts, Beavers, Ladybirds, Girl Guides and Macra na Feirme. It is used for community events, book fairs, old folks and children's parties, card drives, auctions, fundraisers, and this year was used by the Transition Years Students for their Junior Certificate Party. The committee hopes the hall will have an equally successful 1999 to allow them carry out the necessary repairs and improvements.

The committee would like to thank all those who supported them during the year and would especially like to thank David O'Donnell, our treasurer for his dedication and hard work.

*Children from Burke Street and Abbey Street photographed at the Abbey Crib in the late 1950's are Back L to R: Eileen Hayes, Mary Kenrick, Biddy Mullins, Dolores O'Flynn, June Kennedy. Front L to R: Concepta Healy, Lou Kenrick, Ann Kenrick and Jacinta O'Flynn.*

# Legion of Mary

We, the Legion of Mary members, wish all our readers a peaceful, joyous Christmas and a year of peace and spiritual blessings. Our group continues to meet, to pray and to struggle to keep the Legion of Mary afloat in the parish. In order to be effective we need an increase in membership. The invitation to join Mary's group is extended to all.

The last year of preparation for the year 2000 is upon us. We need to extend our efforts to show we are to celebrate the momentous event of Jesus' birth. Mary's positive answer to the angel set in motion the stupendous gift of life in heaven for all humankind. All we have to do is to comply with the teachings of the Church that Jesus came to establish. He came to help and to guide us on our journey. The Legion of Mary try to play a small part in helping people to keep in mind the task we share in trying to assist our fellow travellers to reach our eternal home.

Patrician Meetings are held in Fethard to benefit all. They help to bring to mind the beauty and the challenge of life. Discussions may not always please everyone, but they do serve to set us thinking and to help us to delve into The Catechism of the Catholic Church now in print since 1994.

Catholic papers are delivered locally and are sold before some of the Masses. These papers keep us currently aware of events and questions covered from a Christian outlook. The Rosary recited in the Cemeteries during November can remind us to keep up the prayers for all

our dear departed as well as for all those who now have no one to pray for them. There is great strength, encouragement and sense of community when so many meet for daily Mass. While Sunday and Holy Day Masses are obligatory the week day Mass is an extra help in the daily work and the intentions that we pray for. There is a conscious effort to awaken people to the necessity to pray the Family Rosary.

The Annual Newsletter is now in the capable hands of Joe Kenny, Carmel Rice and Joe's brother, Brendan. We wish them every success as they go from strength to strength. We extend our sympathy to Joe and to Brendan whose mother, Mon, went to her eternal reward this past year. During the past year some of our young parishioners and a number of our older people were called to their eternal home. Life is precious and age doesn't matter to those who have lost their loved ones. While we pray for the departed we also pray for the aching and lonely hearts left behind.

We extend our gratitude to all who support us in the 'Legion'. Fethard is still a friendly place and we love to hear of so many visitors to the town. If we don't meet you we can hear about your visit from Tony Newport or from La Curtin who is our local librarian. Let us know if we can help you. We will certainly pray for you. Please do not forget us here. May Jesus and Mary guide all of us.

*The Fethard Legion of Mary members*

# A forgotten graveyard

*by Tony Newport*

Just north of the parish boundary in the townland of Woodhouse is the almost forgotten Society of Friends' (Quaker) burial ground. The graveyard consists of no more than 15 or 16 graves from just a few families. Nevertheless, these Quaker families were apparently very wealthy, vast landowners and played an important part in the economic and social development of South Tipperary.

The first registered burial in the Quaker burial ground is that of John Boles who died in 1728. He predeceased his father, Jonathan John Boles who died on 15th October, 1731. John Boles senior came from Ballinastraw, Co. Carlow and built Woodhouse, which was registered as a meetinghouse.

Solomon Watson (who married Abigail, daughter of John Boles) died in 1758. He inherited from his father-in-law all the townlands of Mogorban, Silverfort, Saucestown, Clonbrogan, Foulkestone, Buffanagh and part of Curraghscarteen. It is very likely that he built Silverfort House for his son's wedding in 1746.

Buried also at Woodhouse are: Sarah Goodwin, daughter of John Boles who died on 16th August 1734; Charles Quinn who died 15th June 1735; Elizabeth Goodwin who died 31st August 1736; James Watson who died 23rd October 1748 was grandson of Solomon Watson; Jonathan Boles III who died 29th July 1748; was grandson of John Boles 1st and had married Elizabeth Godfrey (born 1718) daughter of John Godfrey of Molorbane or Moggerbane as it was then called. Her mother was Jane, daughter of Thomas Godwin. Jane died 10th September 1758 and was buried at Woodhouse; Elizabeth Watson who died 11th January 1750 was grand-daughter of Solomon Watson; Mary Fennell died 5th September 1814;

Mary Shaw died 5th September 1814.

The above families who were such vast landowners must have had the greater portion of the population of the district dependent on them as tenants or employees. The reputation of Quakers to their followers is one of being most charitable. History does not show that it was otherwise in this locality. There are no records of any outrages against any of the above families by any of the Arcadian Societies such as The White Boys, The Molly Maguires or Ribbon Men, who were active against oppressive landlords at the time.

As the Quakers believed that "all men come into the world equal (with nothing) and left it the same way" they did not permit headstones on graves. Therefore, "No towering marble is displayed" or a headstone of any kind erected to show where any of the graves is located in the Quaker Cemetery of the "Society of Friends" at Woodhouse. The burial ground covers just a small area and the inscription "Society of Friends Burial Ground" can still be deciphered on the narrow stone arch over the entrance gate.

The length of time between the death of Mary Shaw 1814 and that of Solomon Watson 1758, leaves one to wonder if the Quaker families had died out in that time or is there some gap in the records. The last recorded burial in Woodhouse is that of Elizabeth Godwin who died 21st March 1821.

# Sister Mary Rita from Killusty

As a young girl of sixteen, Ellen Agnes Corr left Cappadrummin, Killusty, Fethard, and joined the Convent of Mercy in Iowa City, USA. She was later known as Sister Mary Rita R.S.M. and served at Mercy Hospital in Marshalstown from 1944 to 1946 and 1953 to 1954. She was former administrator of the local hospital and served as surgical floor supervisor, director of the School of Nursing, Assistant Hospital Administratior, director of Nursing Service and First Councilor. Ellen entered the religious profession in 1914 and took her vows on 6th January 1917. She graduated from Mercy School of Nursing in1917 and received a BA in Adminstration in 1953. She had a Certificate of Registration in Nursing as a Registered Nurse in Iowa and was a member of the College of Hospital Administrators from 1953 to 1964 when she celebrated the 50th Anniversary of her religious profession.

*Sister Mary Rita R.S.M.*

Sister Mary Rita made one journey home in April 1967, She stayed in the home of her brother-in-law, Mikey Joe Dunne, who paid her way home and made sure she met all her family and friends. She died in 1973. A great achievement for a young girl from the foot of Slievenamon.

# A room with a view

*by Billy McLellan*

*"View from my bedroom window"*

Sometime between the Holy Year and An Tóstal my aunt gave me her box Brownie, a popular camera in its day. To add a bit of excitement to this new hobby, I enquired about doing my own developing and printing. The late Donal O'Sullivan was very helpful and provided all the darkroom requisites. In fact, he gave me most of the stuff for half nothing and plenty of good advice. Such was his nature. One item was a wooden frame into which you put the negative and sensitised paper and then exposed it to sunlight until the image appeared. Sounds prehistoric, doesn't it ?

The first subject was the view from my bedroom window at the back of our house in the Main Street. I took the photograph around noon and proudly showed it, developed and printed, to all and sundry at about 4pm. I put it away carefully for posterity to marvel at. At the time of writing, and as I am not dead yet, posterity hasn't got around to looking at their heirlooms. Just as well, because I came across the famous photograph recently and it shattered my faith in nostalgia. The scene is there all right in glorious black and white, but alas, the picture quality is poor.

In the foreground I can see Davern's garden and McCarthy's orchard and beyond that The Valley and Mulligan's bungalow. The Clashawley River is there but I can't quite make it out. Partly hidden by some trees is a new house built by Bob McCarthy who was a bank official. There was a horse running around that time called Bob Gets Busy. Somehow, the two are fused in the memory. I can see The Furry Hill and Market Hill. I think that's Crean's barn in the middle of the picture but I can't see their farmhouse. Somewhere around there I could detect the first puffs of smoke around 8.15 a.m. when the morning train from Clonmel to Thurles would suddenly appear and clatter its way, diddly do diddly do diddly do from left to right of the picture and then slow down as it approached the red bridge at Kerry Street. I imagined it stopping at Fethard railway station and taking on lucky passengers bound for Dublin and beyond. No school for them.

There's something exciting about an approaching train and a feeling of loneliness when it departs.

(Do you remember Christmastime at the station? The sense of anticipation as the word went round that the train had left Farranaleen. The brightly lit carriages as it came alongside the platform. Puffs of steam. Doors opening and happy holiday-makers being greeted by their loved ones.)

Lying in bed in the darkness, I waited for the room to be suddenly illuminated by the headlights of a car travelling from Clonmel and reaching the top of Market Hill. This created a bright reflection of the window frame on the opposite wall. When the car came down the hill, the picture moved and flickered as it passed by gaps in the ditches along the way. Noiseless, like a silent film. When the car reached the little bridge at Jesuits Walk, the light disappeared and darkness would return. After a short interval the silence would be broken by the sound of the car coming up the Main Street. Was it going on to Killenaule, down Burke Street or up the Rocklow Road ? In that room just before sleep, I counted cars, not sheep.

There are other things visible from the window that do not appear on the photograph. The outside wire aerial to better receive Athlone on the medium wave and the BBC Light Programme on the long wave — The Kennedys of Castlerosse and Dick Barton respectively. I made that aerial as long as I could to get Radio Luxembourg on 208. In those days you also had to have an earth wire connected to the back of the radio. But there was nothing earthbound about the Top Twenty. That long wire aerial was the 1950's equivalent of today's satellite dishes.

From that window I could see our tall kitchen chimney that served the Stanley No 9 range in the kitchen. Somehow the arrangement never worked properly and broke my mother's heart. It couldn't compare with Brett's Stanley No 8 across the street that didn't have a tall chimney but was hopping hot all winter. I remember talk about flues and drafts and endless thermal theories. But I was more interested in Indian smoke signals down at the Capitol Cinema.

Around the same time my grandfather, Bill Tierney, gave me his old HMV gramophone complete with records and needles. Now there was music, movies, a camera and the wireless. This was multi media forty years before they coined the term.

*And sure didn't I have Windows '52 as well.*

*Town Hall dance in the 1950's L to R: Austin O'Flynn, John Whyte, Marie O'Sullivan and Declan Mulligan.*

# I.C.A. Fethard Guild

*Fethard ICA Guild Celebrating their 50th Anniversary in the Fethard Arms, 1977*

This year we have 24 paid-up members on the Guild. Officers are as follows: President: Sheila O'Donnell, Vice-President: Nuala Delaney, Secretary: Joan Heffernan, and Treasurer: Cathy Aylward, with the following Committee: Aggie Barrett, Kit O'Rourke, Phil Wyatt, Mary Leahy, Nora Ahearne, Breda Slattery, Rose Holohan, Kay McGrath, Anne Gleeson, and La Curtin.

In order to facilitate members who wished to attend Historical Society meetings, guild meetings were changed from the fourth Tuesday of each month to the second Tuesday, with committee meetings on the last Tuesday of each month — a little confusing for those of us who had lived with the former dates for almost fifty years. At committee meetings much thought and effort were put into the drawing up of an agenda for interesting and enjoyable guild meetings, as well as dealing with the more mundane aspects of I.C.A. affairs at guild, federation, council and executive level. One of the features at our guild meetings during the year was a talk by Mary Skelly, Kilcoran, on shrubs and bulbs for autumn planting. At the same September meeting, Noreen Allen displayed the patchwork quilt made by some of the members with her advice and help. The same is due to be raffled later in the year.

Beauty was the theme of the October meeting, when Fionnula O'Sullivan and Sally Duggan gave a talk and demonstration on skin care, emphasising the importance of cleansing and toning. Two of our members who had just returned from An Grianán, also shared some of the highlights of their week with us.

At the November meeting we had three guests from Drangan Guild, Ms O'Donghue from Clonmel gave a talk on Candle making and had a great selection of candles for sale at the meeting. On 11 December '97 the Guild's annual Christmas dinner was held at J's Restaurant and was, as before, a most enjoyable occasion.

At the January meeting Tony Newport and Brendan Kenny gave a

photographic slide exhibition from the Kenrick Glass Plates depicting life at Grove House at the beginning of the century, taking us back in time to a way of life now lost forever, but which nevertheless evoked happy memories for members and guests alike.

The February meeting featured a talk by Lucy Townsley on acupuncture and alternative medicines and at the March meeting, Megan Sceats, Crampscastle, gave a demonstration on dough craft, and displayed some of her finished Items. At the April meeting Mrs Lawlor gave a cookery demonstration, using Tupperware dishes in a microwave cooker. We also held classes in yoga and art on a weekly basis throughout the spring and autumn.

Gardens featured strongly in the guild's outings this year, with visits to Geraldine Hanly's garden in Drangan, O'Brien's Clonmel, and Pierce's garden in the Nire Valley, this visit being followed up by an enjoyable social evening at Hearns Hotel.

Eight members attended an 'International Night' in Clonmel in November '97, and in March three of our members attended an 'Irish Night' in Cashel. On 23 December '97 we held our raffle in the O'Connell Hall, after which an excellent tea was served to all who attended. The worthwhile prizes for the raffle were: a patchwork quilt made by some of our guild members; two cushions; a bottle of wine and a Christmas Cake. In February a raffle for two half-scholarships to An Grianán was held, the lucky winners being Cathy Aylward and Joan Heffernan.

During the year the Guild was represented at Federation and Council meetings, and at local level, guild members manned the collection for the Irish Heart Foundation at all weekend Masses on the designated date and several are involved with Senior Citizens, Meals-on-Wheels and Hospice Associations as well as the annual Flower Show. This year's Christmas Party will again be held at J's Restaurant on Dec. 8th when we look forward to the company of members past and present.

Our funds are in a fairly healthy state, thanks to the financial expertise and diligence of our treasurer Cathy Aylward, as we look with confidence and enthusiasm to another satisfactory year in Fethard ICA.

# Bring on the clowns

*by Tom McCormack*

It has to be a sad day for parents and children alike if, due to the lack of a site to pitch its 'Big Top', a circus has to cancel its matinee and evening performances thereby depriving us of a few hours of wonderment and bliss. I am sure, of course, that cancellations have occurred in other towns throughout Ireland but this did not console me as, when arriving into town, I met the colourful trucks and vans of Fossett's Circus going in the direction of Cashel. In these days of video, television, satellite, internet and other distractions wouldn't it be wonderful if we could turn back the 'time machine' and once again experience the thrill and excitement that the coming of the circus aroused in us in the days of childhood innocence. The radio, or wireless as it was then known, dominated the early forties with the cinema arriving later in the decade. However, neither could prevent the circus having a full-house on the night they were performing. At that time John Duffy had the largest 'fit', with Fossett's

*Duffy and Sons Circus, band, actors, horses etc. in front of 'Big Top'*

in second place. Duffys wintered in Dunmanway, County Cork and took in South Tipperary towns early in the summer on their way up North. They usually performed in Cashel the night before coming to Fethard.

From early morning multicoloured horse-drawn wagons or caravans could be seen as they appeared to cascade down the steep hill close to the railway station. On reaching the bridge they turned left entering the Main Street and then on to the Barrack Field, now renamed Fethard G.A.A. Park, the usual site for their annual performances. There, within a few hours, the 'diggers', having worked very hard, would see the fruits of their endeavour achieved when the taut canvas would be raised from the ground to form a glorious amphitheatre. For those of us peering through the narrow school windows the appearance of two flags fluttering in the distance heralded an afternoon and evening of heart-stopping entertainment. Advertising posters were erected on E.S.B. poles and in shop windows for weeks beforehand, and on the day, the various acts would be endorsed by a member of the circus on a hand loud-hailer. Sometimes the announcer would be dressed as a clown and make sure we were all well acquainted with the 'Russian Knife Thrower', the 'Bear Trainer from China' and the 'Snake Charmer from Baghdad', etc. and while most of us were aware that the same fellow was like God — three performances in one — it didn't matter a dam, the circus was in town.

Prices of entry ranged from 1/6p (one and sixpence) to 5s (five shillings) with a special roped enclosure at ground level for what Brendan Behan called the horse gentry, this at a cost of 10s (ten shillings) and in those years this amounted to half the labouring man's weekly wage. Arriving early for the shows, those of us who were still attending school and with very little money, would make several attempts to breech the canvas. This always met with failure and we finally parted with the one shilling and sixpence entry fee, and while we may have failed in our mission to enter scot-free we always felt it was our duty to attempt to carry this out.

Inside the circus band played loud and brassy, mainly tunes of the day such

as 'Blueberry Hill', 'La Paloma' and 'Casey was waltzing the Strawberry Blonde', while the audience waited with baited breath. Horses and ponies always had a major role in the show. A group of six would start the night's entertainment and at the crack of the ringmaster's whip would salute the crowd by standing on their hind quarters. Clowns interjected between each act to the delight of the younger audience members.

The 'slack' or 'high wire' performance was an act highly respected by the crowd and while the artists worked the wire you could hear a pin drop. After the act the tension was lifted by the arrival of a large group of clowns in a tiny motor car. After five minutes of banter they all climbed back in to the car which usually collapsed bringing howls of laughter from the crowd. People generally relaxed as they waited for the next act. The night would proceed with Connemara and Shetland ponies tapping the ground with their hooves, letting you know their age; dogs racing around the ring, pulling small trailers made of wood; a snake charmer that you thought you saw earlier selling candy floss; and a fellow dressed like an Indian throwing small hatchets at an unfortunate young woman standing against a timber board looking as if it was the end of the world and, indeed, one slip of a hatchet and it would have turned out exactly so. It was no wonder then that clowns were introduced afterwards to let us know that life was only a barrel of laughs and we could all open our eyes again.

The three acts that followed the mid-show break really made the night. The first in the ring was the 'Bucking Mule', followed by the welcoming invitation to members of the audience to mount the animal and stay mounted for a number of seconds. Within a minute the ring would be filled with young and not so young men who saw themselves as future Grand National jockeys. In all my young years watching this event, I never saw one person conquer this half-bred animal. His 'butt' facing, his back legs shot out like pistons discouraging anyone who intended climbing onto his back.

Next you would see the arrival of the strong man, 'Young Atlas', or in later years Kerryman 'Butty Sugrue' and the same invitation would be given to come and lift the weights. Some went in but it lacked the fun and sport attached to riding the mule.

The show nearly always finished with the trapeze act and here the crowd stared spellbound as a troupe of young men and women soared gracefully and in harmony high above the crowd. Now and again the older boys would shout and whistle at the trapeze girls. Sometimes Duffy's might have a few lions with a tamer. He received great applause when he finished his act by sticking his head into one of the lion's mouths. Unless I'm greatly mistaken this sadly happened once to often.

I always felt sad when, during the last ten minutes of the show, a gaping hole appeared in the tent. As this was a sure sign that the show was ending. With the exception of a few empty cigarette boxes or sweet bags only the round sawdust circle gave any indication that a circus had been to town. Looking towards the Barrack Field on our way to school the following morning our thoughts turned to the year ahead and the return of the circus.

*Painted wagons rolling down,*
*past the station towards the town.*
*Stunning brass on harness brown*
*each trailer bright displays a clown.*

# Fethard and Killusty Angling Club

The Annual General Meeting of Fethard and Killusty Angling Club took place on 20th February and the following committee elected: Tom Fogarty (chairman); David Grant (secretary/treasurer); Jim Sayers, Mattie Fleming, Jim O'Brien and Michael Allen.

The dates for the season's competitions were set. Club membership was limited to fifty members and the annual fee was raised from £7 to £8. Fees for juveniles, up to the age of 16, was set at £3. We wish all our members, past and present, a very Happy Christmas.

## Results of Competitions — 1998

| | FIRST | SECOND | THIRD |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Spring Competition** *"Tom Shea Cup"* | David Grant | Jim Sayers | (no fish) |
| **Evening Competition** *"Eddie O'Neill Trophy"* | Matty Fleming | Willie McGrath | Tom Fogarty |
| **Autumn Competition** *"John O'Donnell Cup"* | Tom Fogarty | Matty Fleming | Norman Regan |
| **John Sayers Trophy** | Matty Fleming | Tom Fogarty | George McGrath |

*Fethard & Killusty Anglers pictured at the weigh-in at Kiltinan Barracks after the John Sayers Trophy competition. Front L to R: John Fleming; Mattie Fleming (winner); Tom Sayers (retired chairman). Back L to R: Tony Quigley, Johnny Sheehan, Jim Sayers, Tom Fogarty (second prize), George McGrath (third prize), Norman O'Reagan, and David Grant. Chairman Tom Fogarty made a special presentation to Tom Sayers who retired during the past year after serving as chairman for 20 years.*

# Visitors to Fethard during the year

*Con Fitzgerald and his wife Renee pictured at home on holidays from Bradford with his son Michael and his wife Elizabeth outside the Gateway B&B. Also included is Chris Nevin, proprietor Gateway B&B.*

*Anne and Liam Connolly (right), St. Patrick's Place, photographed with Mary and Danny O'Donnell and their grandson Michael O'Donnell home on holidays from Ontario, Canada.*

*Richard Cummins pictured with his two aunts Eileen (Cummins) Farrelly, Cavan, and Noreen (Cummins) Nugent, Clonmel. Richard is now living in the original family home at Monroe.*

# Killusty Soccer Club

At our AGM the following officers were elected: Presidents: Jim O'Meara and Dan Sheehan, Chairman: Kevin Ryan, Secretary: Michael Cranitch, Treasurer: Louis Coen. Selection Committee: Sean Aylward, Michael Cranitch, Tom Kearney, Bob Maher and Kevin Ryan.

Last season's pride of place went to our Junior 'B' team who won the Division 5 league. Great credit is due to all concerned especially manager George Williams and selector Davy Maher. Gerry Murphy captained the team. Brendan Brett was the 'Player of the Year'. Martin was top scorer. Eamon Holohan was chosen as the league Division 5 'Player of the Year'.

Our youth team acquitted themselves well in their first year, lack of experience proved their downfall especially in the cup competitions. Nicky Murphy was chosen as youth 'Player of the Year' and Jason Nevin was top scorer. Our Premier team failed to live up to expectations, finishing well down the league table and going out of the Cup competitions rather tamely. Martin Coen was 'Player of the Year'. Shay Coen was top scorer.

We would like to wish all our friends and all our ex-players both home and abroad a happy and peaceful Christmas.

***Killusty Soccer Club 20 years ago***

*This photo was taken in Killusty after the local team won the annual seven-a-side tournament. Photo includes: Supporters Back L to R: Bríd Halpin (Kearney), May Ryan, Minnie Allen, Vera Sheehan, Rena Sheehan, Tom Sheehan, Chris Aylward, Philip Prout, Tom Halpin, Eugene Duggan, Tony Aylward, T.J. Sheehan, Patrick Sheehan, Alice Halpin (O'Gorman), Dan Sheehan with baby Catherine, Mrs Pat Sheehan, Mick Halpin, Mary Aylward Brown holding Sarah Coen. Children L to R: John Ryan, Paddy Ryan, Martin Ryan, Tom Ryan, Martin Coen, Stephen Aylward, Patrick Murray, Debbie Coen, Chris Coen, Paul Duggan, John Murray, Shay Coen, Pete McEvoy, John Sheehan.*
*Team Back L to R: Pat Ryan, Kevin Ryan, Joe Allen, Paddy Halpin, Louis Coen. Front L to R: Michael Sheehan, Sean Aylward, Philip O'Connell and Bernard Feery. For the record, Paddy Halpin scored two goals and Kevin Ryan scored three to give Killusty a 5-4 victory over St. Patrick's Cashel.*

# Augustinian Abbey Restoration

*Fr. Ben O'Brien OSA accepting a cheque for $1,000 from Donal Ryan, Tullamaine, Fethard. Donal is a trustee of the Co. Tipperary N&B Association of New York who kindly donated the money towards the restoration of the Abbey.*

In 1248 the Augustinians made their first foundation in a small village called Clare in Suffolk, England. Less than 50 years later they had many more 'houses' in England and a few in Ireland. In 1305 they set up the foundation here in Fethard and what became known as the Augustinian Abbey was built. Much of the Church building still in use today dates from that year. The then Friars' residence is now a ruin as is the Lady Chapel. The refectory and the flourmill were knocked down altogether and the new 'huge' flourmill was built in 1791. That building was a near ruin when the people of Fethard restored it and turned it into a magnificent public amenity — Abymill Theatre which opened officially on 26 May, 1988. Towering as it does over the Abbey Church it looks magnificent and the Church by contrast looks like a rundown forgotten-about former amenity, a sad sight in itself and made to look doubly sad by the magnificence of the restored Mill — and all that on the outside, at first glance.

Inside, the Church has undergone many changes in the near 700 years of its existence. Various alterations took place as change was imposed for one reason and another. There was a time when the people could not even see into the upper part of the Church where Office and Mass were celebrated by the friars. It was deemed sufficient that the people could hear – ("hear Mass").

A firm of reputable engineering consultants, Malachy Walsh and Partners, were engaged to make a report on the condition of the fabric and building ser-

vices of the Abbey and to make recommendations. The report confines itself to the Church only as it is not intended to carry out substantial works to the crypt area linking the Church to the mill building, at least not at this time.

They have recommended the following to preserve what they call the envelope – roof and walls – in the long-term and improve its appearance straightaway. The removal of the existing ceiling is envisaged in this.

1. *The roof finish has to be attended to. New gutters and pipes etc. for the removal of rain water have to be provided.*
2. *The walls have to be attended to as they are part plastered and part unplastered. Some of the plaster has worn away in places. There is a certain amount of moisture penetration.*
3. *It is possible that the confessionals will be taken out and these areas to be made good. Also the side porch on the car park side to be made consonant with the rest of the buildings.*
4. *They recommend a new concrete floor slab which will accommodate an underfloor heating system, insulated to current building standards.*
5. *A whole new heating system within the church necessitates a new boiler house remote from the church. The existing boiler house will be decommissioned and the horrible chimney defacing the wall linking the church to the mill will be removed and the wall restored.*
6. *Substantial upgrading of the electrical requirements is also necessary. This will include new emergency lighting to comply with Fire Officer requirements, replacing existent wiring, upgrading of distribution board and upgrading of the existing E.S.B. supply.*
7. *An entirely new roof over the side-chapel, sloped and slated, to fit in with the main roof is also recommended.*

The estimated cost in early 1997 was close to £600,000. Building costs increased by 7% in 1997 and we have to presume that they continue to increase. At present we have gathered £300,000 towards the work. The expectation is that the Government will put up most of the rest. If the Government elects not to do so, the new roof over the side-chapel, the removal of the chimney, confession boxes and porch entrance to side-chapel all will have to be abandoned. The church won't fall on that account but the overall impression of this venerable National Monument (it is listed) will continue to suffer in spite of (because of!) its venerable old age. It is chilling to think that although it is a National Monument and as such belongs to the state, it is left to the people of Fethard and the countryside around to ensure its future and be responsible for its presentation. In the face of the obvious sacrifices made locally we have to expect that our public representatives would ensure that the state fulfil its obligation. Fethard people everywhere around the world can 'chip in' with financial support and they should lean on anybody and everybody to get the political masters to measure up to this responsibility. In 20 years time, even less, Fethard will be a thriving tourist attraction and will be well geared to meet the demands as such. What a

pity if one of its major features continues to point to a lapse in appreciation of our cultural heritage. In the year 2005 we will celebrate a 700th birthday. It is not too soon to get this 'house' in order.

Apart from the work already listed, interior decorating and reorganisation will also be undertaken. If all goes well and all the work is done we will then put our minds towards establishing a historical centre to commemorate Blessed William Tirry and also to provide safe-keeping for the statue of Our Lady of Fethard. This has been in safe keeping in the National Museum for a good number of years. Fethard has much to recommend it as it stands. Retrieving what we can of the past is work begun and carried along successfully by Community Councils, The Historical Society, The Friends of Fethard, and all involved in the retrieval and restoration of Abymill.

Fethard people everywhere can bask in the glow of what has been accomplished by the ones who stayed at home and the many 'outsiders' who now regard Fethard as their hometown. The Abbey will be there when all of us are gone. How wonderful it is as it stands to the memory of all who are long gone during seven centuries and still are recalled somehow in the very sight and appearance of Fethard Abbey. "The ties that link us together are not all gone."

# Tipperary's medieval grave-slabs

*L to R: Peter C. Woodman, U.C.D., Denise Maher, author; and Dr. Martin Mansergh.*

The Abymill Theatre played host to a special event on Friday 23rd January, when local girl Denise Maher's published study of "Medieval Grave-Slabs of County Tipperary, 1200-1600 AD", was officially launched by Dr. Martin Mansergh who is special advisor to An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahearn. The guest speaker at the launch was Professor Peter C. Woodman from the Department of Archeology, University College Cork.

On the night, the entire stock of books reserved for the launch were sold out at the special price of £25.

# Fethard Historical Society

*Members of Fethard Historical Society on a walking tour of Clonmel with Liam O Duibhir in June this year.*

The officers and committee elected at the 11th Annual General Meeting of Fethard Historical Society are as follows: Joe Kenny, chairman; Terry Cunningham, vice-chairman; Margaret Newport, secretary; Christine Nevin, assistant secretary; Mary Hanrahan, public relations officer. Committee members: Gemma Burke, Kathleen McCormack, Kitty Delany, Diana Stokes, Peter Grant, David Sceats and Marie O'Donnell. The meeting took place on 31st March 1998 and for the first time the review of the year's events was presented in video format by Mary Hanrahan and Peter Grant.

The Fethard Historical Society continues to be as vibrant as ever with a paid-up membership of 124 to date, and the events of the past year reflect, once again, our many and varied interests. The events held throughout the year were as follows:

'The Bartons of Grove' (25/11/97) by Tony Newport — a most comprehensive history of the Barton family explaining how they came to Fethard and elucidating the French connection.

'Fethard before the Normans' (2/12/97) by Pat Dargan B.A. Dublin Institute of Technology — this lecture evoked a lot of interest but although Pat's theory regarding the possible existence of an early Christian site, upon which Fethard was built, is very interesting, there is no definitive proof as yet to prove that the theory is valid.

'Ballingarry Mines' (29/5/98) by Pat Dunne, Cashel — highlighted the extent of Fethard connections with the mines, which was evident in the number of ex-miners and their families present at the lecture. Pat outlined the day-to-day routine of mining and vividly described the ever-present hardships and dangers of this hazardous occupation illustrated so tellingly in the slideshow.

*Pictured at the 1998 Ford Irish Conservation Awards were (left) Minister for the Environment Noel Dempsey TD; (right) Mr. Eddie Nolan, Chairman and Managing Director Henry Ford & Son Ltd with Dóirín Saurus and John Cooney representing the Fethard Historical Society who won the award in the Heritage category for their ongoing work on the 'Kenrick Collection of Glass Plates'.*

'Walkabout Clonmel' (15/6/98) — a group from the society went on a most interesting walkabout of medieval Clonmel with Liam O Duibhir, chairman Clonmel Historical Society.

'Trail of 1798' trip to Wexford (25/7/98) — this was our main outing of the summer comprising the 1798 Interpretative Centre, Enniscorthy, Ferns Castle, The Fr. Murphy Centre, Oulart, Vinegar Hill and the reconstruction of the Dunbrody tall ship.

'Orangeism' (25/8/98) by Kevin Haddick Flynn, London — an excellent lecture, well constructed, and well delivered containing a wealth of information on the interesting connections between various bodies – Protestant, Catholic, Freemasons and Orangemen. We look forward to Kevin's lecture on Nationalism next year.

Throughout 1997 the Fethard Historical Society hosted the monthly 'Back(s) to the Wall' traditional music nights in Pat O'Shea's Lounge Bar, Main Street, with the final session and party taking place on 1st December '97. Our thanks to all the musicians who took part and to all our members who came along to support them.

Congratulations to local archaeologist Denise Maher, Abbey Street, who launched her book on Medieval Graveslabs in the Abymill Theatre, Fethard on Friday 16th Jan '98. Fethard Historical Society members helped coordinate the event with the Maher family.

The third Annual Tipperariana Book fair took place on the 8th Feb. 1998 and once again, proved a resounding success, both as an enjoyable event for booklovers and from a financial point of view, the society raising £1,200 sorely needed funds. As usual there were booksellers present from all over Ireland, covering all areas of interest, from antiquarian to popular fiction. One of the highlights of the day was the 'stereoscope'

showing photographs from the 1850's and 1860's and brought to us by Gráinne Mac Lochlainn, Curator of Photographs, National Library of Ireland. Also present to sign their books were Denise Maher, Fethard, and Michael Coady, Poet, Carrick on Suir.

In January, our chairperson, Joe Kenny set up the 'Fethard at Home' web-site on the Internet, featuring the Fethard Historical Society among others. So now, our members at home and abroad, can keep up-to-date with our activities at: www.fethard.com

The Kenrick Photographic Project undertaken by Joe Kenny in 1997 was the recipient of two prestigious awards in 1998. The first was the Heritage Council, Heritage Award 1997, a bronze plaque mounted on wood, which was presented to Joe Kenny and Terry Cunningham on behalf of the society in Kilkenny on 27/4/98. The second was the Henry Ford European Conservation Award 1998 – overall winner in Ireland for Heritage section – comprising £1,000 prize money plus a handcrafted porcelain figurine of an eagle. Congratulations once again to Joe on an excellent project brilliantly executed!

Preserving the walkways and rights-of-way in and around Fethard is a major concern of the Society and has featured on our agenda for the past number of years. This year we once again cleared the Monroe-Strylea walkways, and a dedicated quartet: Jimmy O'Shea, Johnny Burke, Tom McCormack and Miceál McCormack, continued the project and spearheaded the clearing of the walkway at Moanbeg. All the hard work culminated in a most enjoyable walk about on Heritage Day (6/9/98) starting from the Cashel Road via Monroe, Rocklow, Strylea, The Green, Abbeyville, Jesuits Walk – with a detour

*Éamon Ó Cuív, Minister of State at the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaelteacht and the Islands, presenting the Heritage Council Award to Joe Kenny, Chairman Fethard Historical Society, marking the completion of the 'Kenrick Glass Plates' project. Also included is Freda Rountree, chairperson of The Heritage Council who funded the project.*

to view the work-in-progress at Moanbeg – and back to the Ballroom car park.

In September, we were delighted to host the Autumn Seminar of the Federation of Local History Societies in the Abymill Theatre. The one-day seminar comprised a meeting of the F.L.H.S. committee, a lecture on '1848- an Overview' by Jonathon McCabe UCD, lunch at J's, a walk of Fethard led by Mary Hanrahan, then on to the Slieveardagh Heritage Centre, Killenaule, the Flag Monument, The Commons and finally Widow McCormack's Cottage in Ballingarry. Those taking part in the seminar came from as far afield as Dublin, Galway and Kerry and all were most impressed at the wealth of Medieval buildings in Fethard, some of them even promising a return visit with their respective societies.

This summer the society once again availed of the Student's Summer Employment Scheme, employing 16 students in all who worked mainly on cataloguing the local graveyards, newspaper research and the copying of all birth, death and marriage records in the county clinic dating back to 1860. As well as the records relating to Fethard, the students also copied records from Kiltinan, Tullamaine, Mullinahone and Killenaule. The undertaking cost about £300 and it will entail a further two years work for all the records to be entered onto computer.

The Fethard Historical Society also applied to the Tipperary (S.R.) Co. Council to be a member of the newly formed Strategic Policy Committee. At a further meeting in Cahir House Hotel on 12th October it was decided that our representative on the committee will be Tim Shanahan, Enterprise Centre, Cahir.

Fethard has been nominated for funding amounting to £95,000 under the Urban and Village Renewal Programme, and our society was involved on the negotiating committee throughout the year in meetings with the Co. Council, Leader and FÁS to determine how best the money should be spent. The society also part-funded the production of a tourist brochure in conjunction with Tipperary Leader Group and Fethard & Killusty Muintir Council.

Immediate upcoming events include a lecture on 'Old Cures' by Martin O'Dwyer; centenary commemoration event for John Cantwell, poet, Market Hill; our Christmas Dinner in J's Restaurant; and preparations for Tipperariana '99 which will be held in the Ballroom on Valentine's Day, 14th February, 1999.

We look forward to another eventful year, to all our members at home and abroad we say "Nollaig Shona dhíbh go léir".

## *Remember Connie*

*Connie Coen, Brodeen, who died accidentally in London, February 1982, aged 31.*

# Fethard Judo Club

*by Johnny Sheehan*

I've always had a great love for the sport of Judo and Aikido since 1962 when I studied both as a student under a very high ranking Japanese Master Kenshiro Abbe 8th Dan, and I was honoured to be asked to teach Judo in Australia.

In 1982 three of us founded our local club Fethard Judo Kwai, (Kwai means society). The original Trustee/Founders were Michael O'Meara RIP, Rory Walshe, and myself, Johnny Sheehan. Today there are only two of the original trustees left but the Club is still going well under the tutelage of Eric O'Donnell, 1st Dan, who is himself a efficient and fearless competitor, having won most major awards up for grabs, including a bronze award in the American-Canadian Youth Championships in America a couple of years ago, and if his young charges copy his tactics and techniques they should be amongst the best on Ireland. We won't ever let it be forgotten that in the Irish Open U-18 in 1989, we (the Fethard Club), took eight gold medals on the day and Eric was one of the gold medallists. This has never been achieved either since or before by any club, we also won three bronze on the same day, not bad from twenty-three competitors.

*Eric O'Donnell*

So best of luck and good wishes Eric for 1999 and beyond and sincere good wishes to all our friends relations and neighbours for a Happy and Holy Christmas.

*Fethard, Lower Main Street, in the 1940's*

# John Cantwell, Poet and Patriot

*(P.A.D.were the initials of Father P.A. Doyle, OSA who, while serving in his first ministry in Fethard, became acquainted with the poems of John Cantwell through Cantwell's sister, Mrs Long, who lived in the home place on Market Hill. John Cantwell died on 2 December 1898. Fr. Doyle's article, printed below is taken from 'The Tipperary Annual' of December 1912. You will notice small variations between P.A.D.'s version of the poems and earlier editions of the same poems published in The Nationalist while Cantwell was alive.)*

One Sunday morning, about fifteen years ago, a group of young Tipperary men were amusing themselves lifting and throwing weights in a sunny field on the slope of Market Hill, near Fethard. Which of them was strongest, or seemed most likely to uphold the fair fame of their gallant county, I have never heard nor inquired. It may have been John Cantwell, of Hill Farm, the subject of this paper. He was one of the group, and the most popular young man in the countryside, well-known as an ardent patriot, a promising writer, and the sweet singer of many songs "true to the Gaelic ear." One thing is certain, that for him that morning's sport proved fatal, by reason of a serious hurt to which, within a year, he succumbed, leaving Ireland the poorer by his death. Ireland is ever the poorer by the death of her poets. I am thinking not only of those like Davis and Mangan, whom Ireland cannot forget lest her own right hand be forgotten, but of every singer, no matter how obscure, who, in the furrow or on the footpath, felt the warm thrill of patriotism and sang it into the colder souls of his countrymen.

It was while working in the furrows of his own fields at Hill Farm that John Cantwell "heard the voice of Banba." She spoke to him as she had spoken to Charles Kickham, even in the very same places, saying "sing of me to my children," and he sang, of all that was bright and beautiful, tender and touching, in the fair scenes, simple lives and cherished memories of his homeland. His songs entitle him to an honoured place amongst the great Tipperary men whose names are being enrolled on the pages of your Annual.

From a short biographical sketch, written in affectionate remembrance by his sister, we learn that Cantwell received his education at the Patrician Monastery, Fethard. Like many others, he seemed to have owed his early love of study and writing to the encouragement and refined taste of his mother. His first poem was composed when he was only seventeen. One year after he published a prize story in which the interest of a local tradition was enhanced by the expressive idiom of Tipperary.

From the time of his father's death his intelligence and industry were devoted to the cultivation of his farm. But both before and after he always managed to have leisure moments which he devoted to extending his knowledge and writing down his thoughts, the proof and fruits of which we have in several stories and sketches, published and unpublished, and some twenty-five poems, mostly songs, all redolent of the pure, sweet influence of his surroundings, all glowing with the love and the hopes of Ireland.

His death was the occasion of a high and sincere tribute from the present editor of the *Tipperary Annual*. In the current number of *The Nationalist* (Weds. 7 Dec, 1898) we read: "We regret to learn that this highly-talented and promising young Tipperary man passed away this

morning, aged about 27 years. Many of his poetic contributions, which possessed much merit and were greatly admired, appeared in *The Nationalist.*"

I have before me as I write two cuttings from this paper of Cantwell's verses. One is entitled "Sons of Tipperary," a sturdy song to an Irish popular air, voicing the national sentiments of the day. The other, dated Christ '91, we give here in full, as a fair type of the refined thought and musical ring of Cantwell's poems.

***Christmas in the Long Ago***

*In the golden long ago,*
*Erin's hills were fair and free,*
*And the sparkling Christmas snow*
*Clothed mountain, vale and tree;*
*Christmas bells were sweetly ringing,*
*Peace and joy to mortals bringing -*
*Drowning human grief and woe,*
*In the golden long ago.*

*In the golden long ago*
*Mirth and laughter shook the halls;*
*Battle-trophies in a row*
*Gleamed on decorated walls;*
*Valiant knights - the type of duty,*
*And their dames - the pink of beauty,*
*Kissed beneath the mistletoe*
*In the golden long ago.*

*In the golden long ago*
*Beaded holy glistened bright,*
*Twined in battle-axe and bow -*
*What a weird and thrilling sight.*
*Minstrels sang the strange old story,*
*Of the Babe, the Lord of Glory,*
*By the yule-logs' ruddy glow*
*In the golden long ago.*

*Ah, the golden long ago.*
*Silence reigns where shout and jest*
*Thrilled and throbbed through night and snow-*
*Prince and gleeman sleep at rest.*
*Valour's shield no longer flashes,*
*Beauty's mould is dust and ashes;*
*All are faded, like the snow,*
*Of the golden long ago.*

The publication of two others of Cantwell's poems brings me to a little incident in which the writer had to figure. It was on coming into possession of certain rooms, in a certain house, in a little town in Wexford, that the manuscript of these poems fell into my hands. Undistinguished, in a heap of useless documents they were doomed, on first impulse, to serve the need of kindling for my fire. The occasion came; I opened the door of their dusty prison, and lo! like the Sheag na Morav aroused from their long sleep, the verses of Cantwell seized my attention, and appealed, not only to be spared, but to be sent forth on their message to Ireland. Here are the two poems that I very willingly rescued and published in the new pages of the Tipperary Star.

***Anner's Bright Stream***

*Not a spot in Tipperary - its mountains or rills,*
*E'en the haunts of the fairy, amid its green hills,*
*Nor valley, nor wild-wood to me is more dear*
*Than the haunts of my childhood 'neath Corrig-mo-Clear;*
*Famed Aherlow's splendour is rivalled I ween,*
*By Kiltinan's wild grandeur, and fair flowing scene,*
*Where the swollen spring flashes in Sol's fiery beam*
*As onward it dashes to Anner's bright stream.*

*How pleasant to ramble in summer's rich bloom,*
*'Mid sweet briar and bramble and woodbine perfume!*
*While the glow of the rose lingers late in the West,*
*And bee seeks repose on the flower he loves best;*
*With no sound but the shiver of tall waving reeds,*
*And the song of the river as onward it speeds,*
*Till the pale moonbeams glimmer as mingled the seem*
*With the rush and shimmer of Anner's bright stream.*

*What memories olden it wakes in my breast*
*Of an age that was golden, a land that was blest!*
*Ere the dark cloud of slavery blighted each vale,*
*Or the last shout of freedom had died on the gale.*
*Each crag has a story, a legend of gloom,*
*Yet a bright wreath of glory for Liberty's tomb;*
*For in dim distant ages - ah, sad glories' theme,*
*Lived soldiers and sages by Anner's bright stream.*

*And by the old mountain lived maidens as bright,*
*And pure as the fountain that flashed in the light,*
*The eye with love beaming - the cheek all aglow,*
*The golden hair gleaming - the bosom of snow,*
*The youthfull heart beating - the old tender tale,*
*The dear twilight meeting - the cool sylvan vale,*
*Oh where could you find such delightful daydream?*
*To live and to love by the Anner's bright stream.*

*Flow on, dear old Anner, by castle and cave,*
*Till Erin's green banner shall float o'er thy wave,*
*Till the harp's welcome numbers o'er mountain and plain,*
*Shall wake from the their slumbers the sons of Shee-faighin.*
*And in this free valley, its soil o'er my breast,*
*Beneath the wild sally, how calm shall I rest!*
*And sleep there for ever, my soothing requiem*
*Being the song of the river - by Anner's bright stream.*

### *Slievenamon*

*Tho' Nature's sweet smile, in our own little isle,*
*Beams bright on every hill,*
*And her mystic spell, wraps every dell*
*In a mantle of beauty still.*
*Nor mountain or knoll, from pole to pole,*
*Nor valley, nor velvet lawn,*
*Can ever compare with the beauties rare,*
*My own old Slievenamon.*

*When the sunset rays, like a purple maze,*
*Envelope the rugged scene,*
*And the summit glows like a gorgeous rose,*
*A glory of gold and green;*
*Like a world of dreams, the landscape seems,*
*While the vision lingers on,*
*And the eye is dazed, while the soul is raised*
*By thy beauty, oh! Slievenamon.*

*What legends quaint of soldier and saint*
*Have thy memories handed down*
*Of valour's bright lance and beauty's swift glance,*
*And battle of old renown.*
*When armies arrayed have battled and prayed*
*For Liberty's glorious dawn,*
*And the heat-clad caves were their homes and graves,*
*Oh, famed old Slievenamon.*

*Dear homeland hill! whose beauties fill*
*My soul with a wondrous joy,*
*Thy sunlit slopes, like my own young hopes,*
*Have cheered me from child to boy.*
*From boy to man, as I hurried and ran,*
*Thy glories have ever shone,*
*Like the symbol of Love that watches above*
*Thy summits, oh! Slievenamon.*

Another bright little poem entirely guiltless of even the suspicion of treason, I found imprisoned in the same dusty cell. I am not sure that it was written by Cantwell, though copied on the same manuscript. It may interest your readers, and, mayhap, identify the author.

### *A Game of Cards*

*While lost in an abyss of thought,*
*Where ease sat scoffing at employment.*
*A maiden, fair and smiling, brought*
*A pack of cards for our enjoyment.*

*"What shall we play for" I enquired*
*"For love, or fun, or golden treasure?"*
*She said, "Of earthly goods I'm tired.*
*And, if you please, we'll play for pleasure."*

*"You play for me, I'll play for you,*
*And so we'll play for one another,*
*Which makes it plain as two and two,*
*That either one must win the other."*

*My inmost heart o'erflowed with joy,*
*Such lot ne'er fell to any sinner,*
*Here is a chance, and I must try*
*By might and main if I can win her.*

*The cards were dealt, the game begun,*
*And fickle fortune kind caressed her;*
*She played with spirit, played and won,*
*As if the sprite of luck possessed her.*

*A single card was in her hand,*
*Which was to test the final issue,*
*And she sat smiling, graceful, bland,*
*While I was straining nerve and tissue.*

*"Have you not hearts?" she gaily cried;*
*As deftly on the board she tossed it,*
*"I have one heart," I sadly cried,*
*"But, ah, alas! I long since lost it."*

*And now, my friends, enjoy the fun,*
*My heart's one wish was to obtain her;*
*Tho' I have lost, and she has won.*
*I'd like you'd tell me who's the gainer?*

*If I am hers, is she not mine,*
*By bonds of fate and love united?*
*Thus, o'er a cup of ruby wine,*
*A game of cards our vows has plighted.*

When publishing these poems I wrote as follows: "By whom or when they were written I have no idea. The writer was evidently a Tipperary man, and from the neighbourhood of the stream and mountain that inspired them. They are not entirely original in thought or expression, but you will find throughout some bold imagery, a musical ring, and genuine poetical effect. If any of these poems was published before I shall be glad to know of it. If I can discover who the writer was I shall be glad to keep his portrait with his manuscripts."

Needless to say, my admiration was increased when I came to know of John Cantwell. A few selections from others of his poems, of which I had the good fortune to obtain copies, will show your readers to what variety of subject his sympathetic mind turned itself.

As a Fethard man, he was naturally proud of General Thomas Francis Burke - all Ireland may well be proud of him - to whose memory he wrote a stirring ballad. The very measure suggests the air to which it must have been often sung on race course and pattern in Tipperary. "To the memory of General Burke."

***General Burke***

*(Born in Fethard, 1840; died in America, 1889.)*

*Heartbroken Erin, don thy garb of mourning,*
*For a gallant soldier, who is now no more,*
*Whose pure soul, wearied with life's sojourning,*
*Has winged its flight to the spirit shore.*

*Sleep on in peace through all future ages,*
*May the sod press lightly on thy noble breast,*
*Though at home in Ireland a wild warfare rages,*
*In a far country thou hast found thy rest.*

The "wild warfare" to which he referred, the bitter agrarian troubles so graphically described in Kickham's novels, were sung by Cantwell in his:

***Cot by the Mountain***

*The happy bright days I remember so well,*
*That I spent 'mid my own native heather;*
*The cool, pleasant paths and the soft, dewy dell*
*Where my Mary and I lived together.*
*What dancing and merriment, laughter and fun*
*Was ours when the busy day's labour was done,*
*When the lads and the lasses dropped in one by one,*
*To the dear little cot by the mountain.*

*All these joys are now past, yet each soft summer eve,*
*As the sun lingers late in its glory,*
*I revisit the scenes of my childhood and grieve,*
*O'er the thoughts of its sad, bitter story.*
*Its ruined old walls are so dreary and lone,*
*As I gaze and remember, I sigh and I moan,*
*Yet the ivy clings lovingly, shielding each stone*
*Of my own dear old cot by the mountain.*

With these may be classed his song to "My Dark Rosaleen":

*She reigns o'er my own Tipperary,*
*Where valour and beauty hold sway.*

A poem entitled "Resurgam," "A Comparison," and verses to:

***My Queen***

*Where the brooklet waters glisten*
*In the bosom of the dell,*
*And each lily-face lies mirrored in the stream*
*My queen.*

*We will hie away and listen*
*To the music of its swell,*
*While we revel in the rapture of a dream,*
*My queen.*

*Where the blossom of the heather*
*Takes the dew, and nectar yields*
*And its perfume scents the valley with the furze,*
*My queen.*

*We will lose ourselves together*
*In the maze of the fields*
*And the green and waving banners of the trees,*
*My queen.*

His remaining poems we can no more than mention. The following are

some of the suggestive titles: "To a Friend in America," "The Convent Bell," "Memories," "The Christmas Bells," "Lines Written an Album." Two that are rather unfinished show a tinge of romance which reflects new beauty on a character strongly marked by a broad sympathy and warm affection. "Two Flowers" inspired these lines, the thoughts of which are repeated in verses.

*Flower, once so beautiful,*
*Pressed in my book,*
*Symbol inscrutable*
*Born by the brook.*

*Hundreds had passed you*
*While crossing the lea,*
*Till one so tenderly*
*Gave you to me.*

*Oh, she was beautiful,*
*Oh, she was kind,*
*Tender and dutiful*
*Lofty of mind.*

I cannot better close this meagre sketch of the life and writings of John Cantwell than by expressing a wish to see his unpublished poems in a future number of your Annual. If I were a Tipperary man I should be sorry to see a single verse of the rudest ballad perish while so excellent a means exists for preserving songs that are never sung in vain. If we younger people did but stay to think we should recognise that seldom an old man or old woman is borne to the graveyard that a sweet song, or quaint legend, or fund of Irish history is not lost forever.

When one of our own inherits the ancient bardic spirit, and having blown his trumpet calls, alas! too few, to a generation that sorely needs arousing, is called away, Ireland is the poorer. But if she forgets his words and his memory she is ungrateful, and this is why John Cantwell should be remembered in Tipperary.

*Pictured at the unveiling of a plaque in the Abymill Theatre to mark the centenary of the death of poet John Cantwell, Market Hill are L to R: Alice Quinn (relative), Michael Coady, who unveiled the plaque, Frances Long, a relative who read some of Cantwell's poems at the event, and Terry Cunningham, vice-chairman Fethard Historical Society. The commemoration, organised by Fethard Historical Society, took place on Wednesday 2nd December 1998, exactly one hundred years after John Cantwell died at the young age of twenty-eight.*

# Abymill — The Mill (Fethard) Ltd.

The Theatre was busy and active right from the late autumn to the summer of 1998. Autumn/Winter of 1997 saw the staging of Brian Friel's 'The Loves of Cass Maguire' which was followed by transition year of Patrician Presentation Secondary School with 'Godspell'. The spring saw the arrival and renaissance of the Hogan Musical Society with a week long run of 'Magic Moments' – a variety show scripted and produced by Marian Gilpin.

The Nano Nagle Primary school had their summer show involving a massive effort by the entire school and staff, and of course Majella Hewitt-Forte presented the annual 'On Your Toes' show there in June. Maeve Carey and friends paid a return visit to Abymill. Maeve, from Clonmel, is now studying in Manchester to further her music career.

A once-off event last December was, of course, Lord Andrew Lloyd-Webber, in a unique evening where he was interviewed and played prominent numbers from his hit shows. Our Bingo patrons of Thursday night helped us to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Abymill last May, and still continue to give their undivided support every Thursday night for bingo.

Updated lighting, and a paintwork facelift have been given to the theatre in the past year, and of course for general care Christy Mullins and Elizabeth Sheehan do the honours.

Hopefully the 1999 season will be as vibrant as the last and that the walls of Abymill will resound to the voice of young, not so young and not-so-old alike. Austie O'Flynn's production of 'Wanted One Body' will be the first show to kickoff the Autumn/Winter season and this will be shortly followed in early December by Opera Theatre Company's production of 'The Four Note Opera'.

Board of Directors for 1998-'99 are: Chairperson Michael McCarthy; Secretary Marian Gilpin; Treasurer Agnes Evans; Administrator Austie O'Flynn. Committee members: Carmel Rice, Eileen Maher, Joe Kenny, Jimmy O'Shea, Noelle O'Dwyer, Bernard Walsh and Mary McCormack.

Seasons Greetings to all our friends and patrons.

# Fethard Bridge Club

Bridge is without question the most stimulating card game ever invented. No equipment is needed beyond a table and a pack of cards. It can be played by anyone, at any time, in any place, and the vagaries of the Irish climate itself do nothing to diminish its pleasures. It is played by over 100 million people in fifty different countries around the world. The marvel is not that so many millions play bridge already, but that so many others do not!

Accordingly, it is no surprise that Fethard Bridge Club continues to flourish and we have over sixty members again this year. The senior club plays in the Tirry Centre on Wednesday night each week and the junior club on Monday nights.

It is with a deep sense of sadness that we note the death in the last year of two of our long standing members — Mon Kenny and Dick Gorey. Mon was one of the founder members of the club and

*1998 President's Prize winners Betty Walsh and her mother Bridget Gorey pictured with Club President Frances Burke (centre).*

from the beginning developed a deep love of the game which endured up to the end. Although she was unable to attend the Wednesday night games in the months before her death she looked forward on Thursdays to getting a detailed account of the various types of hands which were dealt the previous evening and lost no time in pointing out how they should or could have been played! Dick was our incoming president for the year and his death was quite unexpected. Dick has been playing bridge for over twenty years and was popular with old and new members alike. He was always in good humour and was very patient with and encouraging to the new members who joined in the past couple of years. He had been looking forward to his term as president of the club and had already mentioned his plans for his president's dinner for next year. Both Mon and Dick will be sorely missed by all.

This year's president's dinner was held in J's restaurant on 20th May 1998 and the President's Prize winners were Betty Walsh and Bridget Gorey. The winner of the William O'Flynn 'Player of the Year' trophy was Frances Burke and the Committee Prize went to Alice Quinn and Teresa Cummins who were also winners of the Kitty Hayes Club Championship trophy. As the Newsletter goes to print preparations are afoot for our Christmas party on 16th December at which our Christmas prizes will be presented. At our AGM on 27th May 1998 the following officers and committee were elected: President: Dick Gorey (RIP), Vice President: Berney Myles, Secretary: Gemma Burke, Treasurer: Cinta O'Flynn, Assistant Treasurer: Mary Quirke, PRO: Brendan Kenny; Rita Kane, Alice Quinn, Margaret Hackett, Frances Burke, Kathleen Kenny, Betty Walsh, Breda O'Shea, Maureen Maher, and Michael Kenny.

May we take this opportunity to wish all bridge players (and non-bridge players!) at home and abroad a very happy and holy Christmas.

# St. Rita's Camogie Club

The following officers were elected at the 1998 AGM of St. Rita's Camogie Club; President Rev. James Canon Power, P.P.; Chairman: Joe Keane; Vice-Chairperson: Jennifer Keane; Secretary: Norah O'Meara; Treasurers: Sharon Lawton & Norah O'Meara. Committee: Denis O'Meara, Tossie Lawton, Martha Sheehan, Mary Ryan, Jean Morrissey, Aidan Fitzgerald, Michael O'Dwyer, Aisling O'Riordan and Edel Fitzgerald.

This year we entered teams in under-16, under-18, and junior championships. In the junior championship Fethard lost to Moycarkey in a very close game. We drew with Toomevara and we beat Bournea. Unfortunately, in the under-16 championship we were unable to field a full team and we withdrew from the competition. We are still in contention for the under-18 championship. This competition always commences very late in the year. The first game was in October where Fethard was at home to Ballingarry/Drangan. We lost by 3 points. Our next game is away to Borrisoleigh on Sunday Nov. 1st. The following players represented the Club during the year: Jean Morrissey, Aisling O'Riordan, Edel Fitzgerald, Sharon Lawton, Norah O'Meara, Jennifer Keane, Fiona Conway, Audrey Conway, Niamh Sheehan, Mia Treacy, Olivia Phelan, Vanessa O'Donnell, Sandra Maher, Bernadette O'Meara, Bernie Horan, Sandra Wade, Mary Ryan, Marie Holohan, Majella Croke, Elaine Williams, Jennifer Frewen and Julieanne Smyth.

The club ran a Youth Training Programme, under the guidance of Jennifer Keane, which proved very successful with 30 participants. Since this programme was so successful, Fethard will now be able to enter a team in the under 12 championship in 1999.

Congratulations to two of our players, Mary Ryan and Sandra Wade, who both got married during the year. The club would also like to thank Denis O'Meara for his commitment to training and anybody else who helped in any way. The club would be very glad to receive any unwanted hurleys or helmets that you may have. New members of all ages are always welcome to join.

*Pictured at this year's GAA Dinner Dance are L to R: Pat O'Donnell, Gus Fitzgerald, Paddy O'Flynn, Percy O'Flynn, Michael McCarthy and Gerry Fogarty.*

# Tour de Fiodh Ard

*by Paddy Ahearne*

This summer the Tour de France started in Ireland and on the 13th of July a stage passed through Carrick-on-Suir. My family and I went down to see it and because of the crowds, we had to park on the Clonmel side of Carrick-on-Suir. I decided that the best perch to view the race was the hairpin bend on the hill about three miles outside Carrick. No need to tell you that this decision of mine was met with a very hostile reception, so my family parted for Carrick town and left me, "that old lunatic", to hike the hill.

Fair play to my youngest lad who stuck by me and accompanied me on the hike. I soon discovered there was method in his madness, as his loyalty had to be paid for with a large bag of Cadbury's and a bottle of Finches. We arrived at the bend about 10am and at 11am the commercial part of the race started to pass, everything from Coca-Cola to Good Year Tyres had been advertised and it was very entertaining.

The spectacular race itself arrived at 12 noon, helicopters hovered overhead, the French police on motor bikes escorted the race, the pelathon was closely bunched and passed in a flash to a huge roar from the large crowd. It was all very

*Altar Boys photographed in the Abbey in the late 1950's. Back L to R: Michael Nevin, Michael Kenny, Michael Cummins, Richard Burke, Don O'Connell. Front L to R: John Joe Keane, Jimmy Hayes, Gerry O'Riordan, Philip Dillon and A.B. Kennedy.*

exciting but over in a matter of minutes. While waiting for the race my thoughts went back to a midsummer day in the mid sixties to the Tour de Fiodh Ard. You may well ask, "what's that", but if you're at the half-century mark, age-wise that is, I'll soon refresh your memory.

Back then when we were young and full of life, our summer job was bulb picking. There was a nice few quid to be made which was used to tog out families going back to school. In those times bikes were the main mode of transport. Prior to the bulb picking season bikes were begged and borrowed from all quarters — aunts, uncles, grandparents and friends — and were used to transport the army of workers to Annsgift.

As you can imagine, bikes in those days were not exactly the Rolls Royce type and a lot of repairs had to be carried out on them before the job started. Money being a scarce commodity only a few parents could afford the professional services of Paddy Heffernan who could repair any bike properly.

Paddy never failed to amaze us his skill at turning a bike upside down on to its saddle and handlebars in one swift manoeuvre. Paddy, though small in stature, had enormous strength in his hands as he could gut a tube from a wheel in seconds. One thing I can remember about Paddy's bike store — it had only one window which was just as well because with the hurling that went on inside he would not have a window anyway. For those of us who did not enlist Paddy's services our old fellows came to the rescue as most of these "Handy Andy's" fancied themselves as bike mechanics. They went about the job of repairing with great enthusiasm and endured lost tempers, skinned knuckles, cut hands, oil on the floor of the kitchen and because of a lack of proper tools, every spoon, knife and fork in the house were bent. By the time the bike was fixed the only way you could feed yourself was to aim for your ear, then you may have a chance of getting the food in your mouth. Now with the bikes back under us, over to Tommy Hogan, "Scully's", or a can of 3-in-1 oil which was lavishly squeezed into every moving part of the bike until it purred like a cat.

After a few test runs all is 'A-1'. The last final adjustment which we did ourselves, brake blocks well back from the wheel rim. The big day at last arrived and at 7.30 on a beautiful sunny morning a string of cyclists could be seen along the road. There was every imaginable contraption of a bike. The day passed fast picking the bulbs and the talk all day was about the race home that evening. The start was the entrance to Annsgift and the winning post was the 30 mile sign near the pitch and toss school on the Cashel road.

A problem arose about extra weight for some participants in the form of younger brother to be carried home; this extra weight had to shed. So the unwanted pillion passenger was first ordered to walk, failing that, he was threatened, then bribery took over and this usually worked. At the start, somebody shouts, "GO". The movement at first is slow. All is orderly on the straight after Annsgift. We pass Jack McCormack, all well bunched together passing Mick Bough's and Molly Carey's, and around the bends leaving Packie Hanley's to the left and Jackie White's to the right. Things warm up a bit as we hit for Flynns of Glenagaddy, Monroe to the left and Brodeen to the right.

Hearts are pumping fast as we sweep past John Holloway's and Dan Ryan's. Now we are really racing as break after

break takes place on the straight at Mick Coen's. Now into the slight climb between Jim Boy Danaher's and Bob Grace's. It was vital that you hold a good prominent position at this stage, as this was the last climb. From there on in it was down hill. On reaching the summit between Paddy Murphy's and Phil Byrne's, only a handfull are tailed off, from now on it is every man for himself and God for us all. Breath deeply drawn and pumping pedals for all your worth. The pelathon speeds down past Mrs Connolly's, next past Mrs Casey's and into the dip and up into the brow at the railway bridge. A last look around the landscape, as it's heads and bodies down, unable to keep pace with the pedals we free wheel down the railway hill at break neck speed. Now 3-in-1 oil pays off as inches were gained on those less lubricated.

At the bottom of the railway hill, we fill the width of the road. It's like the Charge of the Light Brigade. Peddling for all our worth it's wheel for wheel, pedal for pedal — nobody getting the upper hand — 'effing' and 'blinding' by those behind seeking a way through — but nobody is yielding. Past Frank Cassells and Jim Fergus and the winning post fast approaching, the frustration of those behind was being vented in very bad language. A Tinker's Rosary was recited at its loudest.

Suddenly somebody shouts "Guard Fallon! Guard Fallon! Guard Fallon!" Guard Fallon sounds like the response to the 'tinker's rosary' as the word of warning was passed back the ranks. On raising my head from the front wheel, my God, there's Mick Fallen, standing with his hand up shouting, "Stop!" He's taking up half the road, the wall of bikes bearing down on him at a mile a minute. Realising the danger and too late to run to the side, Mick turns sideways, now at least he's only covering one third of the road. Those of us who had brakes pulled hard and even to this day nobody has invented the instant stop brake. The lads with no brakes (the majority) stuck their hard-nail boots to the road. The ABS brake system, where the brakes lock on and off intermittently stopping the car in a straight line, is much talked about today. Well, unknown to us, we had that system down to a tee. The lad with the Wellingtons would stick the Wellington to the road just in front of him, and as the bike passed, lift it fast. This manoeuvre was repeated over and over, bringing the bike to a stop. If the Wellington stuck to the road, it was curtains. Back to Mick on the road, facing death by bicycle squad. We swept by his toes and heels. It was total mayhem trying to avoid him; to this day I'll never know how he escaped. Not one bike was able to stop; most of us were at the cross before we stopped.

Looking back the road, we could see Mick emerging from a cloud of dust, smouldering rubber and smelting steel. We knew that we were in deep trouble. As you all know the "Garda Blue Flu" nearly disrupted the Tour de France, but Mick did not suffer from the blue flu, but from a blue fit at what had happened. It crossed our minds to run for it, but it was better to face the music and listen to Mick's harp. Mick's tune was short and sweet, "Ye may be suffering from saddle sores, but if I catch ye again, racing, it will be boot leather sores".

So ends the tour de Fiodh Ard, Sin é suás ar mo rothar agus go raibh on bother leigh slán.

# Visitors to Fethard this year

Joe O'Donnell, Dublin

John and Anne Maher, North Carolina

Mary Duncan, S. Africa

Rena Staunton, London

Tony Newport and Peter O'Connell

Ron Sheedy, Brisbane

L to R: Tom Shine, Chrissy (Sayers) Cummins, Rita Walsh, Pat Shine, Rita (Sayers) Kelly.

# Back to Britain on the Mail Train

*a short story by Jimmy O'Donnell*

After a sickly and miserable bitch of a boat journey on the Princess Maud, I boarded the train at Holyhead for Birmingham, a hell of a journey at anytime of year. I found an empty carriage hoping for a stretch and lie-me-down alone. I had been home for Christmas.

Before I made myself comfortable I decided to look out the window. Travellers, Irish emigrants mostly, were packing in on their journeys to various parts of Britain. A deep baritone voice was rendering, "If we only had old Ireland over here" from a carriage way down and closer by a tin whistler playing the wonderful soul-reaching refrain of "Eileen Aroon". Just imagine such a majestic piece from the 13th century composed by Carol O'Daly to win over the fair Eileen Kavanagh. In it Ireland cries for her lost liberties and for her martyrs and now in the fifties Ireland mourns her emigrants while governments seek election with promises to stem the flow from the land. "Trapeze stunters, slack wire walkers, dumbbelles, them pontificating politicians", old FAVEY from back home would heckle, "aren't they a circus all to themselves, what would them fellows know about emigration". The platform soon became a cold isolated stage except for a couple or so, one a strange looking character in a black Anthony Eden hat and long dark overcoat who sauntered up and down the platform looking into each compartment and muttering at intervals. Was he an M.P., a professor perhaps? He reminded me of a brother who taught us in primary school known as "The Gawk Maguire". This stranger resembled him, big black eyebrows that spiked out like porcupines. The Gawk will never be dead I said to myself. The other character on the platform was an Irishman, stocky built with a mop of lustrous black hair matched with flashing dark eyes that had a friendly roguish look about them. He was policed by two porters advising him that the train was about to pull out. His paper bag with a compliment of large porter bottles was beginning to fray which necessitated him putting the bottles into the pockets of every garment he was wearing which he did slowly and carefully to the annoyance of both porters.

"Oirish again", muttered one porter to the other. Producing two crubeens from the remnants of the torn bag he offered them to the porters as a gesture of good will for their patience which they declined with sarcastic smirks. "Fair enough", said the Irishman stating that they had a hungry look about them as he dumped the crubeens in a refuse bin. As he staggered into the train well laden and what seemed to be a statue wrapped in newspaper under his arm with the base sticking out and got my curiosity going. Was it religious, maybe one of St. Patrick to honour him for driving all the snakes out of Ireland or was it some Irish patriot who fought for Ireland's freedom?

The train began its hooting for the take-off. I took refuge in the fact that I had a carriage to myself. This was not to be. The strange looking character best known to me as "The Gawk" entered quite casually. He nodded to me. For ages on end not a word crossed between us. Cautiously and out of the corner of my eye I could see him, head down,

twirling one thumb over the other but at the same time quizzically staring at my hold-all carrier bag which contained some sods of turf and thatching scollops for a drama project. After a long spell our eyes met head-on. He smiled rather falsely and snapping his fingers, "Yes", he said, "Korea, the Korean War, I knew it, Irish Fusiliers, that's where we met". "I wouldn't say so", I said. Casually I said, "The only Fusiliers I soldiered with were McAlpines". I was about to bat an eye at last. "You remember Korea, don't you", his voice coming at me suddenly and scornfully. "Terrible, awful", I said placatingly, "bloody awful". "I knew you were there", he quavered giving a frenzied stare at my hold-all bag. Soon he was huddled up, eyes closed.

*Jimmy with 'Queen Vistoria' in Birmingham*

Hours on, the train was slowing down at the platform for London bound passengers to change at Crewe. As he was about to shunt off on the London train he put his hand on my shoulders, "I'm Secret Service, your hold-all bag"? I began to grin. Reaching into the bag he removed one sod of turf. "Sod it", he said, "never knew you grew tobacco in the old country". "And hazel scallops" I said. "Scallops for what", he snapped. "Pipe cleaners", I answered. Then closing one eye he said reminiscently "It could have been". "Could have been what, I asked". "A statue of Her Majesty Queen Victoria I got in Korea that I mislaid on the damn boat from Dublin, and for sentimental reasons reminded me of my dear late wife's features now in some dirty rats possession", he grated in an angry Oxford accent. "Now" I said "we've met. Crewe not Korea". He nodded to me and continued as before to nod spasmodically along the platform. He was soon lost in the midst of the crowds.

The train began its final clickety clack to Birmingham. Great music was coming from a carriage up the way. I made my way up to the session. A dozen or so lads and lassies were having a mighty craic. One of the lassies offered me a sandwich of smoked bacon with a "failte and hospitality inducing fresh acquaintance" to the banjo rhythms of "The Galway Races". A few more entered the carriage and among them was none other than your man laden down with large bottles and the famous statue under his arm. "Dia Dhiobh," he shouted. "Ah Tommy," came a reply, "you lost us". With that Tommy broke into song, "The Rocks of Bawn" and finally lilting "On

Rogha Fhile" (The Poets Choice) to cheers "Dia go deo leat" Dorney.

We soon reached Birmingham. The music and song shortened the journey. I was heading for the Lickey Hills. Tommy was going in the same direction to Sellyoak. "I'll be part of the way with you", he said, while he muffled himself up against the cold December morning. The statue he had held onto for hours on end slipped his grip, fell and broke into smithereens. "God blast", he shouted, "couldn't have luck". Shoving the broken pieces in hot displeasure against the pavement he went on to say he found it on the boat, the ugliest piece of sculpture of a woman, with a face on it that would turn milk sour in a churn. "Twas a prize bit in one way", he said, "it reminded me of my landlady, a gay gamey spark who wants me to be her Cock Lodger. I wanted to put it in my room as a distraction for me to keep the landlady at arm's length." Then I realised this was the statue of Queen Victoria that the self styled secret agent had mislaid. I had only partly related the full story to Tommy when we reached the tram terminus. Sellyoak tram which Tommy boarded was about to take off. "Meet me Tuesday at nine in the Black Horse", he shouted from the platform. The Lickey Hills tram soon followed joggling its way along the Bristol Road, Longbridge, the home of the Austin Motor Works where I was employed in the cost accounts offices.

# Fethard & Killusty Community Games

After a spell of 13 years it was great to find a change at 'the top table'. The long-suffering Peggy Colville resigned as secretary at the 1998 A.G.M. and was replaced by the capable M.C. Maher, Dun Aobhinn. The Fethard area generally had a wonderful year participating in art, athletics, camogie, judo, U/10 mixed football, modelmaking, swimming, soccer and girls volleyball.

Twenty qualified for the county art finals held in Carrick-on-Suir and Cathal Maher won a gold medal for the second successive year. Emmet Burke, Redcity, won a bronze medal. In the U/10 modelmaking Alan O'Connor, St. Patricks Place, won gold and David Gorey, Main Street, won silver.

A mixed group travelled to Roscrea to contest the county athletics finals. We had two gold medallists: John Noonan, St. Patrick's Place, won U/16 100 meters and Eoin Sullivan, Barrettstown, won U/16 1500 meters. Stephanie Lawrence, Woodvale Walk won bronze in U/10 100 meters race. Aoife & Ciara O'Keeffe, Ballybough, and Richard Gorey, Moanbeg, enjoyed competing in the county swimming finals in Tipperary Town. From the individual events, Cathal, Alan, John & Eoin all went to Mosney to the National Finals.

In Judo (an individual event with provincial elimination) the gold medallists from the county finals in Clonmel were: Ciarán O'Shea, Richard, Roy & Tony Gorey, Stephanie Lawrence and Ciara Hickey, Killusty. These young people all contested the Munster Finals in University of Limerick where Richard Gorey, Moanbeg, Roy Gorey, Redcity, and Ciarán O'Shea, Main Street, all won Gold and qualified for National Finals. However it was hard luck on Ciarán who suffered an injury and was unable to travel to Mosney but Roy brought home a gold medal and Richard a silver.

Our Camogie Team won silver

medals having been defeated by St. Flannan's, Dunkerrin, in the county final played at The Ragg. Team members were: Ursula Lawrence, Stephanie Fitzgerald, Vanessa O'Donnell, Tracey Lawrence, Stephanie Walsh, Margaret Smyth, Kate Maher, Melissa Breen, Laura Burke, Lucy O'Hara, Susie Harvey, Melissa Rochford, Donna Ryan, Emma Walsh, Tracy Burke, Stephanie Lawrence, Aoife O'Meara, Stacey Grace & Susanna Gorey. Mentors: Denis O'Meara, Tossie Lawton, Joe & Jennifer Keane.

The U/10 mixed football team was defeated by Carrick-on- Suir in the preliminary rounds. Carrick then went on to win gold medals at the National Finals, so the Fethard boys had strong opposition and were beaten by the national champions. The team consisted of: Edmund Sheehan (captain), Jason & Adrian Lawrence, Christopher & Tom Sheehan, Liam & Ciarán Ryan, James Kelly, Aaron O'Donovan, Patrick Holohan, David Lee, Eoin Condon, Alan O'Connor, Cathal Gorey and Craig Pollard. Mentors: Tommy Sheehan and Michael O'Dwyer.

The boys' U/12 soccer team had a

*Athletes from Fethard pictured at the County Community Games Finals at Roscrea this year. Front L to R: Sarah Gleeson, Ciara O'Keeffe and Tim Gleeson. Middle L to R: Danielle Lawrence, Stephanie Lawrence David Sullivan and Aoife O'Keeffe. Back L to R: Brian Sullivan, John Noonan and Eoin Sullivan.*

great run and reached the county semifinal where they were beaten by Nenagh. They were a very young team and benefited from the experience for next year. Team: Peter Gough, Paul Kenrick, Edward Sheehan, Glen O'Meara, Keith Lawrence, Brian and David Conway, Eoin Delahunty, James Curran, Damien Shine, David Prout, Connie O'Flynn, Damien Sharpe, James Smyth and William O'Brien. Mentors: Ian Gough and Michael Kenrick.

The girls U/16 volleyball team won the County Final in Thurles defeating Roscrea but were beaten by Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare, in the Munster Final. The team consisted of: Mary Lee, Caroline Croke, Patrice Tobin, Julieanne Smyth, Eimear Gahan, Lisa O'Donnell, Siobhán White, Fiona Maher, Majella Croke, Jennifer Frewen, Marion Harrington and Vanessa O'Donnell. Team coaches Bernie O'Connor and Denis Burke assisted by Jennifer Keane acted as referee at the Munster Finals.

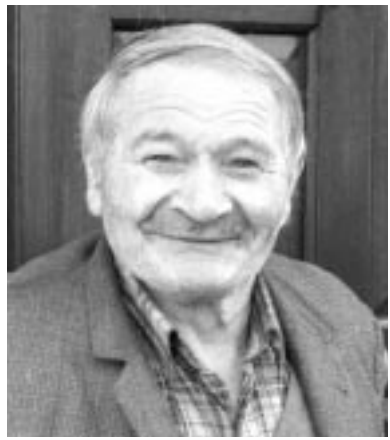
In our sponsored tennis singles event, organised by Patsy Lawrence, for girls and boys. Seamus Dineen, a Fethard man who resides in USA, presented the winners with the Seamus Dineen Perpetual Trophies. This year's award-winners were: First Girl: Vanessa O'Donnell. Monroe. Runner-up: Barbara Ryan, Moyglass. First Boy: Peter Kenny, The Green. Runner-up: Nicky Noonan, St. Patricks Place.

The 'Coolmore 4x100 meter Open Mixed Relay Cup' was won by 'The Nike All Stars' — Yvonne Rice, Eoin Maher, Eoin Sullivan and David O'Meara. The presentation was made by Agnes Evans, representing Coolmore Stud. The Pat Ryan Memorial Cup was won by the same team and the presentation was made by Mrs. Nellie Ryan. The Irish Permanent U/13 Mixed Relay Trophy was won by the 'Bullets' - Carol Murphy, David Sullivan, Killian Cannon and Harry Sherman.

The committee would like to thank all our sponsors, those who contributed to Church Gate Collection and all those who helped in any way. They would like to see a bigger attendance at the 1999 A.G.M. and take this opportunity to wish everybody a Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year.

Current Officers: Rev. Canon James Power P.P. (president); Joe Keane (chairman). M.C. Maher (secretary); Joe Keane / Peggy Colville (joint treasurers), Martin O'Connor (development officer), Denis Burke, (games director). The P.R.O. is Peggy Colville. Michael Fitzgerald is our county board delegate and M.C. Maher is our delegate to company. Committee: Michael O'Dwyer, Michael O'Hagan and Micheál McCormack.

## *Remember Larry*



*Larry Fahey, The Green,*
*died on 6th March 1988, aged 75*

# Fethard Senior GAA Club

*Sean Moloney, chairman Fethard GAA club, pictured above after presenting Joey Fogarty, Congress Terrace, Fethard, with the 'Player of the Past' award at the club's annual dinner dance held in Kearney's Castle Hotel, Cashel, last Saturday night. L to R: Joey Fogarty, Sean Moloney and Leish Fogarty.*

As the GAA season comes to a close our hurlers and footballers are still in the shake up of three South Tipperary championships. Our intermediate hurling team will play Silvermines in the county quarterfinal championship. Our senior footballers were beaten in the south by eventual county champions Moyle Rovers. At the present time Fethard senior team are preparing for a special Munster Club League. They will play at home to Castleisland Desmonds in November and away to Clonakilty in early December and then home to Nemo Rangers in January.

Earlier this year we entered the Kilmacud Crokes seven-a-side All Ireland Tournament – going out to Fr. Manning Gaels of Longford. Our U/21 hurlers and footballers had no joy in the championship, the minor teams likewise. Ballybacon Grange beat the intermediate hurling team in the South Final. The junior 'B' hurlers are in the south semifinal against Kilsheelan and our junior 'A' footballers will play Moyle Rovers. Our 'B' selection take on Fr. Sheehy's in the south final.

On the social scene, we held our dinner dance in Cashel where we gave our teams their winning medals of the previous year. Joe Fogarty was our special guest as the recipient of the "Fethard Person of the Past" award.

A special committee headed by chairman Sean Moloney organised a function in the Ballroom to honour winning county teams of the 1940's, 50's, 60's and 70's.. The function was well attended. Congratulations to all concerned.

The Coolmore sponsored electronic score board looks very effective standing

*Pictured earlier this year at a function in the Ballroom honouring the winning county teams of the 1940's, 50's, 60's and 70's era are L to R: Liam O'Flaherty, Tim O'Riordan, Paddy O'Flynn and Paddy Tierney.*

inside the gate. Fethard were the first venue in the county to have this facility, thanks to Coolmore. The Sports Centre is being looked after by a sub committee chaired by Waltie Moloney. The GAA Park is now settling well - the water is gone.

Congratulations to Tommy Sheehan, Willie Morrissey and Damian Byrne who played on the Tipperary Junior Football team that won the All Ireland Junior Championship this year. Congratulations also to Brian Burke who captained Tipperary senior Football team in their unsuccessful bid for Munster honours against Kerry in the final played at Thurles. Michael Ryan captained the Tipperary Junior hurlers in their unsuccessful bid to lift the honours against Limerick in their Munster Final played in Limerick.

Officers elected for the year were Chairman: Sean Moloney, Hon Sec & PRO: Miceál McCormack, Hon Tres: Nicholas O'Shea, Senior Football Trainer: Waltie Moloney.

Happy Christmas to all our emigrants from the people in 'Blue'.

# Blame the Normans

*by Tommy Healy*

Last Christmas while looking for a book to help pass the holiday period, I came across a volume entitled 'Twilight of the Ascendancy' by Mark Bence-Jones in a bookshop here in Plymouth. The author, himself a member of the Ascendancy, traces the decline of that social class from about 1870, when the Home Rule Movement began to gather momentum, until the present time.

Several of the personalities described in the book have Tipperary connections and figure quite prominently in its pages. As I read it memories of childhood came surging back. I once again pictured scenes such as the opening meet of the Tipperary Foxhounds and my ears resounded once again to the loud braying accents of that class which had held for me a strange fascination and whose lifestyle and odd position in Irish society continue to intrigue me. I recalled also

tales my mother told me of being in service in Grove and her descriptions of the many visitors who came there to stay.

The book is copiously illustrated with photographs, some dating back over a century and several feature local personalities of the recent past. Miss Joan Grubb is pictured sitting astride a horse. She was one of the first women to abandon side-saddle for the safer, more comfortable astride position. As a result she was branded a 'fast woman' and viewed with suspicion by her peers. In later life, the author notes, the same lady, by now the twice widowed Mrs. de Salles La Terriere had taken to dressing as a man and last year's Newsletter features a photograph of her so attired.

Mrs La Terriere's first husband had perished in the Great War and she herself had driven ambulances for the Red Cross on the Western Front. She once showed me a collection of shell cases she had acquired while in France and could describe each in minute detail. I recall how she had attempted to pick up a fragment of shell as a souvenir and had burned her fingers (literally) because the object was still hot.

Her second husband, the Frenchman La Terriere, had a penchant for fast cars and his passage through any town was guaranteed to send residents scurrying in all directions to get out of his way. My father told me that despite all La Terriere's apparent recklessness, his only victim was a hen too slow to avoid him.

In Mrs La Terriere's later years I used to give her some trout I had caught at Kiltinan and I found her a most fascinating character. Her only son, Rory, had been killed in 1944 in the closing stages of the Second World War but she retained her cheerful approach to life despite what it had handed out to her.

Captain Barton at Grove receives mention as being wholly intimidated by the telephone which had been installed some time before his death in the 1950s. He was known not to touch it and to rely on his housekeeper, Bridget Power, to handle his calls. Bridget was a witness at my parents' wedding in 1942 and my godmother. She had spent her whole life in service, was a most accomplished cook and survived as the last major ser-

*Grove House, Fethard, c.1900*

vant at Grove. She retired in the early 1960s when she was well over 70. As a birthday present she gave me five shillings, a huge sum in terms of her wages, a fact I did not fully appreciate until many years later.

The Donaghmores and the De La Poers are mentioned in several chapters and their role in the late 19th and early 20th century Irish social scene is described at some length. The Ponsonbys of Kilcooley receive much coverage and mention is made of the career of the late George Ponsonby. Some years ago while at home on holiday, I read a book entitled 'Kilcooley and its Abbey' by William Neely, a clergyman of the Church of Ireland. In it he traces the origins of the Protestant inhabitants of that region. Most of those who settled in the area were of German origin, refugees from the Palatinate on the Rhine who had been driven out by Louis XIV in the late 17th century. One such family, the Schweitzers, became in time the Switzers one of whose number founded the Dublin department store of that name. However, a name which caught my attention was that of Dulmoge, corrupted to Dulmage and finally to Delmege. The Delmeges mentioned by Bence-Jones were, I presume, a branch of the Palatine Protestants who had come to Kilcooley in the reign of Louis XIV. In 'Twilight of the Ascendancy' social events it chronicles that set in the period of its most rapid decline. Just as the group had its heyday during that period when the old Irish Parliament (Grattan's Parliament) asserted its independence of Britain, its decline followed the Act of Union of 1801. This decline was not inevitable for if the Union had been a benefit to all sections of Irish society the class which had

*Mrs La Terriere (centre) and friends photographed in Kiltinan*

embraced it so enthusiastically would have captured much of the credit. The fact that this arrangement did not work out to the benefit of the majority and resulted in time in the campaigns first for Home Rule and later a clean break from the United Kingdom meant that the main protagonists of the Union, the Ascendancy, would be the losers if that movement succeeded. Long before John Redmond began to push for Home Rule, measures to address the evils of landlordism had struck a heavy blow at the Ascendancy's economic base. The events of 1912-22 merely put the political final touches to what land purchase had begun.

Who were the Ascendancy? They were not a homogeneous group but rather a mixed bunch. The oldest Ascendancy families traced their origins back to the Norman Invasion of 1169 when the only English Pope Adrian IV generously gave Henry II the right to rule Ireland. The Butlers, Earls of Ormond, can trace their roots back to this time. Others arrived during the land confiscations of the Catholic Queen Mary and her Protestant half-sister Elizabeth and the Ulster Plantation after 1609. The last significant arrivals were the psalm-chanting Puritan gangsters who funded Cromwell's side in the English Civil War and received their pay in Irish land. Indeed, as Antonia Fraser points out in her biography of Cromwell, the great man awarded himself a large acreage of land in the Fethard area, describing the region as "a land worth fighting for". He was not to live long enough to take possession.

The power, wealth and influence of the Ascendancy were based on the misery and degradation of their native Irish neighbours. As these people asserted their right to equal treatment, a quest which became bound up with the campaign for self-rule, the Ascendancy went into decline.

The Land Purchase Acts of the 1880s and '90s took from under the Ascendancy their economic underpinning. Their opposition to Home Rule and indeed any form of devolved government meant that they alienated themselves from the majority element in Irish society. Indeed their views on the leaders of the Home Rule movement and Irish political figures in general revealed a contempt for the native population not dissimilar to that expressed by the Afrikaners for the blacks of South Africa. The likes of John Redmond, John Dillon and Tim Healy they viewed as shiftless and untrustworthy and by implication the supporters of such figures were regarded as similarly benighted.

A few figures had the sense to appreciate the precariousness of their position. Men like Edward Martyn and W.B. Yeats and women like Constance Gore-Booth saw that their destiny was bound up with the majority element and not as agents of a colonial power. They were, however, the minority.

The years since 1922 have been an uncomfortable period for the Ascendancy. The losses most suffered in the Great War thinned their numbers. Some unable to face the prospect of Irish independence, like the Cookes of Kiltinan, departed for the home of their forebears. Those remaining inhabited a cultural and political limbo. They were still fervent Unionists but living in a land which had eschewed Unionism and separated from a Britain which had written them off.

The exigencies of Death Duties eroded their economic position. Agricultural

depression as in the 1930s aggravated the effects of Death Duties. The Irish State saw little reason to finance the preservation of stately homes which in the popular mind stood for privilege for the few and poverty for the many. The disappearance of stately properties which would have excited regret in England and actually gave rise to the National Trust passed without a murmur in Ireland. The history of the Ascendancy since 1922 has been one of almost uninterrupted decline.

Yet this section of Irish society has in its time done much for Ireland. It gave the world the genius of Swift, the wit of Sheridan and the beauty of Yeats. It produced the chemist Boyle, the astronomer Rosse and the engineer Parsons. Perhaps as Ireland achieves the prosperity which has so long eluded it, it can afford at last to preserve the vestiges of a system which although synonymous in many minds with an unhappy past, also contributed much towards creating the modern state.

*Killusty 6th class winners of the Fethard Credit Union Primary Schools Quiz held in Fethard Ballroom last January. L to R: Dawn Russell, Edward Hickey, Shane Aylward and Claire Ryan.*

# Fethard Country Market

Fethard Country Market conduct their weekly sale of produce every Friday between the hours 8.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. at the Town Hall, Fethard. There are at present twenty-one registered producers with the market. Produce comprises of: home-made brown and white bread, preserves, fruit and vegetables, cut flowers, dried flowers, plants and shrubs, and a wide variety of confectionery. In addition, some craft items are also available. The Market will shortly achieve its fifty-second year trading in Fethard. The Officers of the Market at present are as follows: Chairperson Hannie Leahy, Hon Secretary Sean O'Dwyer, Treasurer David Curran, Quality Control Megan Sceats, and P.R.O. Nellie Donovan.

Tentative plans are at present under consideration with a view to further improvement of trading conditions at the Market which hopefully will make a visit to the Market a pleasurable social experience for our customers while selecting a purchase from our goods on display.

# Annsgift — memories of home

*by Jimmy Trehy*

The last time I visited my old home in Annsgift it was beginning to crumble and the yard and haggard, which saw many a hard day of work reeking the corn and storing hay for the winter feeding, were overgrown and neglected.

The townland of Annsgift is about three miles from Fethard and Annsgift House was the home of the Hughes family. The Trehys lived about three-quarters of a mile further on down a boreen that passed through the Hughes estate and our small farm was surrounded by the estate lands. Memories of that house, hidden away from the main road as it was, are fresh in my mind even today, forty-five or so years after I left it. Jim Trehy senior and his wife Mary, a Kenny from the Back Green in Fethard, reared five of us there and they did it well on very meagre means.

My childhood and school days were spent there and I can still remember some of the 'characters' who visited us on a regular basis during those times. Our house, though very isolated from town, was a house where people came 'cuardaíocht' and hardly a night went by without callers from some direction.

The Daniels, Bill, Dick and George, our nearest neighbours 'just across the fields' would drop by mainly to hear the news, local, national and international. We had a wireless, you see, and the news at nine o'clock every night was a point of focus, especially during the War years. Dead silence was required from the youngsters while the adults listened to news of the battles on the Normandy beaches, in France and later still, in Germany as the Allies advanced.

One particular night stands out in my memory when my brother, Lolo, had to make a hasty retreat upstairs with my father in hot pursuit because he made

*Ardsallagh House c.1951, renovations of house by contractor Laurence Kenny, The Green. Front: Mattie Kavanagh (Clonmel), Dick Fitzgerald, Tom McCormack (Annsgift), Mick McCormack (Annsgift), Johnny Jacobs (Waterford), Johnny Littleton. Back: Dick (Reidy) Power, Tom Burke (Coolmoyne), Tommy Kenny (Baptistgrange), Paddy Fitzgerald, Employee of Jacobs (Waterford), Bill 'Uncle' Connors, Dan McCarthy (Coolmoyne), Tom Finn (Burke Street).*

some noise and a strategic piece of news was missed because of it.

Bill Daniel was the most interested in the war and he and my father would study the maps in the paper with great concentration especially when the final battles were being fought and profound conversations would go on into the small hours of the morning about what would happen next. Many years later, when I stood on the new bridge in Arnhem, my memories went back to those conversations in that little house in Annsgift.

Bill Meara, now long dead, was also a regular caller in the long winter nights. Bill was renowned for his odd sarcastic comment and to us youngsters he was a mine of information and gossip from the Moyglass end of our area.

Dick Maher was another regular visitor. Dick lived even further down the fields from us and sometimes when he came he brought his fiddle and joined my father in a few tunes, usually Cashel sets but often an air of a song or two as well. We enjoyed the music and that time, we never thought about going to the pub to hear a session. We had it at home!

Dick would often borrow our fiddle to put together a duo or trio for playing at threshing dances. These were a regular feature of our growing up years. We had an inside track on those because Jim Trehy owned a threshing set - a steam engine and mill - and it wound its slow way round the area in late autumn and early winter doing a day here and a few days there until all the corn was threshed and the end of the farm year drew to a close. All the help at the threshings was voluntary and the bigger farmers often had a dance at the end of the threshing in order to show appreciation for the help given. The best threshing dances that I remember were at Annsgift House. Olivia Hughes, the wife of the Major, had a great interest in all things traditional and she even sneaked us youngsters in to listen to the music and to sample the food.

Their big flagstoned kitchen had ample room for the boisterous Cashel Sets and sedate old time waltzes of the time. There was also a song or two to hold our interest during the night, many of them composed by local bards and about local or national themes. The Coolmoyne hurling team was the subject of one I remember and of course the song about “Dev’s Famous Brown Bread” was another popular ditty of the time. None of these would make “Top of the Pops”, mind you, but they were a commentary on the issues of the day both local and national.

Dan Leahy and his son Jack, as stewards at Annsgift estate, were the organisers of the Hughes, threshing dance and Ciss Grady as the cook in the Great House, as it was called, had the job of doing the catering. Her apple tarts you won’t find nowadays.

As well as the night visitors to our house, there was a procession of day visitors too during my young days. This was the era of the compulsory tillage and the warble fly and other schemes of the time. The man selling veterinary products was the “Osmonds” man. He called to our area once every year. He would drive into our yard and my mother would send one of us to look for my father who would be out the fields fencing or moving the calves or getting water for the cows from the only well on the place.

When he came, he and my father would adjourn to the kitchen to peruse the catalogues of new medicines and ointments available from Osmonds that season. One of the usual ointments,

*Jack Leahy and Mrs Hughes in the garden at Annsgift House in the 1940's*

which had to be purchased in big quantities, was for curing torn teats in the cows. Cows always seemed to get these injuries in summer when they went madly galloping through fences and barbwire to escape the warble fly.

The warble fly inspector was also an annual visitor at a certain time of the year to find out if the cattle had been dressed against the dreaded pest. He was known in our house by the phrase, "have ye 'em done yet". I remember the man as a very quiet spoken person who would discuss at length the damage done to the hides of cattle by the warble fly. Once he even brought a piece of hide to show us youngsters the holes made by the larvae when they pierced the skin and I remember thinking what pain the poor old cows went through. That time, of course, the hides of cattle were very valuable for making leather. Leather was the only hard wearing material around to make boots and shoes and other essential items of clothing. Later on, when synthetics were invented, the leather became less important in everyday life.

Probably the most important visitor to the farm was the seeds salesman. Bill Daniel would always announce his visit with the words, "I had Sir James W. Mackey around today". So the man became known in our house as Sir James. He came from Clonmel and I do not know if he realised that he had a knighthood in our little circle but to me, he was someone special though I little knew what the title meant. (Many years later, when I made the acquaintance of a real Sir James Kausimae in the Solomon Islands, I was reminded of the other 'Sir James' who sold us the new varieties of grass seed, turnip seed and mangold seed so long ago.)

Sir James' catalogue was studied carefully and the best varieties were selected. Bill Daniel was consulted about what he was ordering and my father, who kept in touch with developments through the Co. Committee of Agriculture Instructor, would relay the latest information he had been given on the subject.

Eventually an order would be placed

*Mrs Hannie Leahy and Mrs Mary Leahy collecting apple blossoms in Annsgift House gardens*

and arrangements for payment would be discussed and finalised. The visit always came to an end with my father saying to my mother, "Give him a few sections of honey". Jim Trehy was a beekeeper par excellence and he always had honey to give to people who were special guests or friends. He took great pride in his bees even up to the end of his life.

Probably the most unwelcome day visitor was the 'Compulsory Tillage Inspector' whose visits were feared rather than welcomed. I remember one season when the quota was increased. This man wanted us to plough a field near our house which was always kept for the first spring grazing for the cows. Over several visits the arguments went on and even my mother got involved in the controversy. Eventually the problem was resolved and we had to plough up the 'Little Field' furthest from the house and in my father's words, not suitable for tillage at all, at all.

This incident I remember very well because, when Tom Flynn ploughed it up with his Fordson tractor, he allowed me to sit on the tractor with him and I think he even allowed me to steer the powerful machine down the furrow once or twice.

Those visitors, friendly and otherwise, relieved the monotony of life in our little house so far in off the tarred road and helped us to keep that little farm ticking over even in the depths of the war years when medicines and seeds and advice about better farming was hard to come by. I could go on now that I am dawdling down memory lane but that's enough for the present. I am reminded about another character who used to come to our house and he was a favourite with the youngsters because he was a great story- teller. Paddy Leahy would sit beside the open fire in the kitchen and tell us stories about Ownie Sanders from Thurles. I don't know if the character ever existed in real life but to me, an impressionable eight-year-old, his adventures were as exciting as any character in "The X Files" today. But when he got the nod from my mother that it was time for me to get to bed, he would finish his narrative for the night with the statement, "I came away then because there was a shower".

What a lot of memories there were in that "little house" in Annsgift.

# Fethard & District Credit-Union Ltd

As we commence our new financial year assets have now topped the million mark — good news for our members at the annual general meeting held in early December. A new feature of our credit union is the offer of rail tickets from Thurles to Dublin available to our members at a special price of £8 single, and of course, our revised opening hours which commenced on Friday November 6th from 10-12.30am as well as the usual Saturday night opening hours from 7.00 to 8.30pm. These new opening hours should greatly facilitate both our existing members and new members who may wish to avail of our service whilst shopping, or just in town.

With interest rates dropping and keen competition among financial institutions it looks likely that our interest on loans will decrease, as will our dividend on a pro-rata basis. The message for the millennium is strong — a thriving 'Celtic Tiger' and a forward looking Credit Union. This message should be particularly strong for young people who may wish to know more and involve themselves in Credit Union. Come and join and experience membership first-hand, there is no better way to become Credit Union friendly.

Our Primary School Quiz was a huge success once more, and was won by Killusty National School. Many young people are already looking forwarded to the Quiz of '99.

The sad passing of Dick Gorey of Main Street was for the credit union the death of a former director and founder member. To his wife Bridget and family we extend our deepest sympathy.

Board of Directors elected Chairperson: Marian Gilpin, Secretary: Eddie O'Brien, Treasurer: Kate Healy. Credit Committee: Kay Spillane, Angela Dillon-White, Sean O'Callaghan, Jonathon Gilpin and Mary Morrissey. Supervisor: John Barrett.

*Team photographed at the Fethard Credit Union Primary Schools Quiz held in Fethard Ballroom on 22nd January '98. L to R: Theresa Lawrence, Paul Fogarty, Michael Lawrence and Melissa Rochford.*

# Trehy's Garage reopened

*by Liam Cloonan*

*Frank Meagher's Garage on the Green, formerly Mick Trehy's Garage*

Trehy's Garage on the Green, a familiar landmark for many people has, since last February, changed its name to 'Frank Meagher Sales and Repairs'. Frank who is well-known for his car rallying in the past has his main garage business based in Cloneen but saw the need for expansion and seized the opportunity when it arose in Fethard.

Although some alterations and improvements were made, the structure still remains very much the same. The fuel pumps for petrol and diesel are open from 7.30a.m. until 10p.m.

The service in Fethard includes car washing and repairs including punctures, servicing and sales. Any bodywork or panel beating is carried out in the modern body shop and spray booth located in Cloneen. Frank's brother Ian manages the Fethard branch and already has four employed in the business.

*Slievenamon Close — New Respond Housing Scheme on the Killenaule Road*

# Catering for your laundry

*by Liam Cloonan*

Ger Manton was, like many others, looking for a way to make a living in Fethard when he married local girl Susanna Maher. Like every good entrepreneur he saw an opening — providing a six-day a week washing and drying service in Fethard — and he went for it.

Last February twelve months, Ger set up Washco and while he says that it is too soon yet to claim success, he is happy with the way the business is growing. Ger Manton reckons that it takes at least four or five years to get up and running. Since he opened for business earlier this year, with two washing machines and two dryers, he has installed a brand new machine which has enabled him to broaden his service to include the washing and drying of horse rugs.

Washco provides a service to nursing homes, pubs and restaurants, stud farms and the valued local domestic customers. The service includes washing and drying or drying only for all items including blankets, duvets and tablecloths. Horse rugs can also be washed and dried and Washco provides a specialist cleaning service for suede and leather.

The launderette and dry cleaning service is available from Monday to Saturday from 9.30 a.m. until 6.00 p.m. Washco can be found on The Square, Fethard and is located in Sean Henehan's furniture and light hardware shop. Of course it was from the same Henehan's shop window that many young people of Fethard got their inspiration to write to Santa Clause in the past. The same people are now delighted with the service supplied from Washco especially with the unfavourable washing weather we enjoy in Fethard.

# Dancing couple featured on television

Pictured on right are Eddie Murphy, Newpark Hotel, Kilkenny, and Marina Mullins, Fethard Folk Museum, Cashel Road, Fethard, who are dancing partners for the past three and half years.

The couple were chosen for a dancing feature on RTE 'Nationwide' television programme which was broadcast on September 16th this year. They were both filmed individually at their work place, then at class in the Springhill Hotel Kilkenny where both are members of the St. John's Ballroom Club, and finally in Galway at the All-Ireland Championships where they took first place in Munster and third in the All-Ireland.

Marina is now dancing for nine years and has won over 200 awards to date including Tipperary, Munster, South of Ireland, All-Ireland Championships and 'Dancer of the Year' award.

# Day Care Centre

The Day Care Centre was set up two years ago in the Tirry Community Centre, Barrack Street, and has proved very successful. The centre is run by the Community Council FÁS scheme and a very good team of voluntary helpers. We open four days a week and cater for up to twenty-four people on most days. In the morning tea and toast are served as our guests arrive. Then, with the help of voluntary musicians Jimmy Lawrence, Pauline Morrissey and John Pollard, we can also provide music to entertain. To help subsidise our 'friendship account' Sister Christine usually organises a raffle which has helped to pay for numerous items needed by the centre. After the raffle, a beautiful four-course dinner is served. In the afternoon bingo is played which is greatly enjoyed by all. Afternoon tea is served at 3pm and the centre then closes at 4pm. A working voluntary committee has now been formed to plan for future fundraising activities.

# Fethard and Killusty Muintir Council

The AGM of Fethard & Killusty Muintir Council Limited took place on Tuesday 3rd November '98 in the Tirry Community Centre. The Fethard & Killusty Muintir Council Limited, previously known as the Fethard & Killusty Community Council, has changed its name since becoming a limited company.

At the meeting the following directors were elected to the board: Michael O'Hagan, Edwina Newport, Paddy Croke, Peter Grant, Megan Sceats, Diana Stokes, Fr. Ben O'Brien, Susanna Manton, Joe Kenny, Nellie O'Donovan, David Sceats and Pamela Sweeney. Officers to be appointed at the next meeting.

This past year has been a very successful one for Fethard & Killusty Muintir Council. The community information office, under the management of Yvonne Walsh, has continued to grow from strength to strength and with the wide range of services available it proves a valuable resource in the town. The Council's FÁS Scheme, which was renewed in June, is currently employing eleven people. These participants have been allocated work in the Sports Centre, Community Office, Day Care Centre and the Tidy Towns. As part of the scheme, training is arranged for the participants in such areas as computers, car and truck driving and interior design. One of our objectives this year was realised in September when the Day Care Centre began opening five days per week, from Monday to Friday. We would like to thank Sr. Christine, her staff and the many volunteers who work tirelessly in the Centre - its success is a result of your efforts.

Our highlight for the year was the announcement in April that Fethard was to be awarded funding under the E.U. Village Renewal Programme. A representation was made to the County Council on behalf of the community to help direct the funding towards the development plan drawn up by the Tourism Project which incorporated ideas from local organisations and businesses. This Project was set up in 1997 to look at Fethard as a possible tourist destination and to help in the coordination of a community approach to developing a tourist industry in the area. This project was facilitated by Teagasc Rural

Enterprise Service under the guidance of Terry Cunningham. The culmination of this project was a tourism seminar held in the Abymill in November 1997.

The tourism committee reconvened in May this year to finalise its objectives and to make a formal representation to the County Council. After many consultations with the County Council it was decided that the funding would be spent on the development of a river walk and amenity area in the Valley. This work started in October last.

One of our most successful fundraisers last year was the publication of a calendar. This was sponsored by many businesses in the town and was distributed free to all households in the town. We wish all our emigrants a Happy and peaceful Christmas.

*Members of the Fitzgerald family, St. Patrick's Place, pictured at Biddy and Frank Kearney's 40th wedding anniversary celebrations in Lonergan's Lounge on the 25th April 1998. L to R: Pat, Jimmy, Mary, Frank and Biddy Kearney, Tony, Michael and Ollie Fitzgerald.*

# Tidy Towns

The Annual General Meeting of Tidy Towns was held in March and the incoming officers were as follows: Chairperson Ann Cooney, Secretary Peter Grant, Treasurer Anna Cooke, P.R.O. Thelma Griffith. During the year we had two quarterly meetings with County Council area engineer Dan Walsh and town foreman Tom Fitzgerald. During these meetings we reviewed each area of the town in detail and many improvements were agreed and implemented. However, one of our remaining problems remains that of litter. Property owners and Council workers alike are overwhelmed by the amount of litter being discarded on to the streets on a routine basis.

We would like to thank all who supported our church gate collection, and also those who sponsored the prizes for our garden competition. The garden

competition is our way of highlighting individual efforts being made by many people in their front gardens, window boxes and hanging baskets. As usual, last year's winners were not eligible to win this year. This year we were very fortunate to have the services of Tom Purcell on a FÁS scheme. Our thanks to Tom for all the maintenance work he has done and for the interest he has shown.

The following were the prizewinners in the Tidy Towns Best Garden Competition 1998. Mockler's Terrace, Spittlefield & Knockbrack: Mrs & Mrs John Coffey. The Valley & Watergate: Joan Anglim. Kerry Street, Congress Terrace & Redcity: Mary Newport. Cashel Road: John & Mary Barrett. Main Street & Rocklow Road: Jimmy O'Sullivan. Burke Street & Abbey Street: Percy O'Flynn. The Green & Barrack Street: Esther Breen. St. Patrick's Place: (1st) Tom & Pauline Morrissey, (2nd) Anne & Joe Keane. Slievenamon Close: Mary & Benny Morrissey. Strylea & Cedarwood Grove: Billy & Patricia Treacy. Woodvale Walk: (1st) Buddy & Teresa Roche, (2nd) Mr & Mrs Dan Murphy. Fr. Tirry Park & Canon Hayes Court: (1st) Mr & Mrs Grant, (2nd) Mrs Hannigan. Best Large Garden: Joan Anglim. Best Business Premises: O'Sullivan's Chemist. Best Window Boxes: Dr. Corcoran. Best Overall Area: Strylea & Cedarwood Grove.

*Members of Fethard Parish FÁS Community Scheme pictured on completion of their recent training course in woodwork last July. Standing L to R: Canon James Power P.P.; John Nagle, Frank Fogarty, Tom Halpin, David Gorey (instructor), Brendan Kenny, Liam Cloonan (scheme supervisor), Connie O'Sullivan and Ernan Britton (scheme manager). Seated L to R: Mary O'Keeffe (FÁS) and Sandra Meehan.*

# New local solicitor

*by Liam Cloonan*

In 1991, Mary Delehanty opened a solicitor's office in Fethard. Earlier this year Mary, who comes from a distinguished legal family, was appointed Registrar and Returning Officer for Tipperary SR. On her appointment, Mary realised that it was not feasible to continue the practice in Fethard so when the opportunity arose for local girl Susanna Manton, she felt that she could not let it pass. Susanna, youngest daughter of the late Dr Gerry

and Eileen Maher from Main Street, completed her Law Degree in UCC and first worked in Boyle, Co. Roscommon, the birthplace of her mother. She worked in Middleton and also with a Kilkenny firm when the opportunity arose. Susanna married Ger Manton and returned to her native Fethard and the family residence in Main Street.

On 14th April 1998 she took over the practice of Mary Delehanty B.C.L. across the street but, as she points out, was very well supported and made very welcome by Eileen Burke and Avril Colville, both employees of Ms. Delehanty.

From the new year, the name outside the door will change to Manton Solicitors but little else will be altered. They will, said Susanna, continue to provide the same service which in a rural town like Fethard has to include everything from conveyancing, courts, family law to making a will.

# Fethard Irish Farmers Association

The first record of Fethard branch goes back to March 10th 1962. On that night after a lecture from Mr. Con Murphy P.R.O. of Irish Sugar Co. officers were elected to represent Fethard in N.F.A. (National Farmers Association). This organisation had been founded at National level in 1955. In the early seventies N.F.A. along with Irish Sugar Beet and Vegetable Growers Association, Cork Liquid Milk Producers and Leinster Milk Producers came together to form I.F.A.

The officers elected in Fethard in 1962 were Chairman: J.H. Delany, Secretary: P. Morrissey, Treasurer: Ed. Trehy. Delegates to County Executive: J.H Delany and Ml. Smyth.

Officers in succeeding years were Chairman: 1964 to 1966: Philip Maher, 1966 to 1971: John Holohan, 1971 to 1975: John Slattery, 1975 to 1981: T.P. Meagher, 1981 to 1983: Philip Maher, 1983 to 1985: Tom Butler, 1985 to 1987: Malachy Brett, 1987 to 1990: David O'Meara, 1990 to 1997: Denis O'Halloran. Treasurer 1964 to 1971: Patrick Coffey, 1971 to 1977: Ed. Trehy, 1977 to 1997: Joseph O'Connor. Secretary: Denis McGrath became secretary in 1966 and remain so to the present day.

At the AGM held in Nov. 1997 the following officers were elected Chairman: John O'Flynn, Secretary: Denis McGrath, Treasurer: David Tierney. Reps. on County Sub-Committees Dairy: Joe Trehy and David O'Meara, Livestock: Richard Hennessy and David Tierney, Grain: Noel Delaney, Sheep: Pat Walsh and Jim O'Donnell, Horse: Jim Barry, Farm Family: Mrs K. Delany and Mrs M. O'Halloran, Farm Business: John Delany, Industrial: John Slattery.

On 22nd January Frank Bourke, Teagasc, gave a talk on phosphate leaching, revised fertiliser guidelines and code of practice when spreading fertiliser. On 9th March Jim Cantwell and Jim Barlow both from F.O.C. gave a lecture covering farm retirement scheme, pension planning, tax allowances and alternative investment to provide a pension. On 20th July there was a special meeting addressed by Michael Walsh, County Chairman, to decide on our policy towards milk quotas.

On Sept. 25th we had an open meeting with guest speakers Pat Cox M.E.P. and Dermot Leavy, Chairman of I.F.A. Rural Development Committee at national level. This focused on agenda

*Group of Avonmore farmers leaving for a trip to Wales — September 1985*

2000 proposals, objective, status for Ireland and likely political fall-out from German election during the year. The branch has attended all South Tipp. County Executive meetings and the various committee meetings held at county level. Many issues have come up for discussion and there has often been heated discussion on our policy. On 28th Nov. Fethard branch jointly with Killenaule branch organised a bus to the national demonstration in Dublin on falling farm incomes. There was standing room only on the bus.

On the 18th Oct. we received with great sadness the news of the death of Denis O'Halloran. Denis had been chairman of the branch for seven years. He has also been the South Tipp Rep. on the National Animal Health Committee. He was one of the most widely respected personalities on the county executive who gave his views without any ulterior agenda. Our sincere sympathies to Moira, Bernard, Edel, Denise, Sinéad, son in law, many relatives and many close friends. May he rest in peace.

# Let the shoemaker stick to his last *Tommy Healy*

In the premises now occupied by the Gateway Guest House was once the workshop and home of the Croke brothers, Paddy and Johnny. There can hardly be any Fethard person of my age whose footwear was not repaired by them for this was the era before shoes were discarded as their soles wore down. Instead they were sent to be resoled or re-heeled and the Crokes long dominated the trade.

I first made their acquaintance in the early 1950s. I was just starting at the Patrician Brothers Primary School under the tutelage of Brother Damian, an elderly grey-haired man then in the final years of his teaching career.

On the way home one day I stopped to gaze through the workshop window. Paddy was sitting facing the window and Johnny sat on his left. One was nailing a leather sole to a shoe with the last on which the shoe was placed gripped between his knees. The other was engaged in the intricate and laborious business of stitching a sole to the upper by hand.

I often looked at them through the window until one day I plucked up the courage to go in. The business had held an irresistible fascination for me and I wanted to observe it at close quarters. I

discovered that both brothers were not just shoe repairers but shoemakers. They made shoes to measure for customers prosperous enough to afford the bespoke version and did so by hand.

Over the next few years I often observed with growing interest the painstaking process of putting together a shoe. Uppers were attached to a leather and cork insole and the soles, made of thick leather, were stitched by hand before heels were finally added.

The process of handstitching I found to be intricate and extremely skilled. I often observed the brothers prepare the thread as if it were part of some highly complex scientific process. Linen yarn was measured off a ball of white untwisted thread. The material was produced by Stewarts of Lisburn. Several strands, often as many as six, were twisted together. These were heavily waxed using a bar of cobblers wax, a very sticky substance which became even stickier from the heat of the hand and the friction as it was drawn along the thread. This thread was prepared in a double taper to assist the insertion of the stitches. Finally, a piece of 'Russian' hair, a very stiff fibre, needed to guide the thread through the narrow hole which the awl would make, was attached to the tapered ends and stitching commenced.

To make the stitching secure, a hole was made through the welt and sole. This hole was fractionally thinner than the thread. The thread was forced through from each side on the taper, a half-hitch was made and it was drawn tightly together. The result was to make the fixing secure even if the thread on the sole end of the shoe wore through from walking. The waxed thread on the upper end literally stuck the sole in place.

The Croke brothers died almost thirty years ago. However I can still picture them clearly sat in their places in that tiny workshop. Paddy would light up a cigarette, place it in his mouth and simply inhale the smoke slowly as he worked at what seemed to me a very rapid rate.

*Mikey Croke with post office bike, wife and daughter and another women outside their house on the Rocklow Road. (photo: Peggy Delguidice)*

Johnny was an enthusiastic and accomplished gardener and on some afternoons was to be seen working in his garden on the other side of the road. I notice that a bungalow now occupies that site.

The emergence of synthetic materials and the expansion of mass production have created the throwaway shoe. With these have almost disappeared the trade of the old-fashioned, highly skilled shoemaker. Such trades imposed a discipline in their learning and a dedication in their practice for which in their absence we are the poorer. I still picture the Crokes bent laboriously over their work and remember them with affection.

'Go ndeaniadh Dia trocaire ar a hanam go leir'.

# Fethard Juvenile GAA

Our Annual General Meeting was held on 7th Feb. '98 in the Tirry Centre at 8.30pm. The following were the officers elected: President: Dick Cummins, Chairman: Michael O'Dwyer, Vice Chairmen: Michael Keane and Tommy Gahan, Secretary: Josephine Fitzgerald, Ass. Secretary: Dinny Burke, Treasurers: Paula Gahan and Noreen Burke. Bord na nÓg Delegates: Michael O'Dwyer and Liam Cloonan. Liaison Officer: Eileen Maher. Committee: Martin O'Connor, Theresa Leahy, Mary Godfrey, Michael Kenrick, Austy Godfrey, Martin Burke and M.C. Maher.

While this was not our most successful year we still had some good matches in both football and hurling. We played in over fifty matches. Our U/16 football team were the first to start off on the 30th March. We played seven matches to reach the semifinal against Cahir in which we were beaten. The U/16 hurling team also reached the semifinal in which Fr. Sheehy's beat us. Our U/14 footballers and hurlers teams both reached the semifinal stages. Our U/10 players also had a number of matches throughout the year. Our U/12 footballers reached the semifinal in which we were beaten by Carrick Swans who then went on to win the County Final. U/12 hurling also saw us to the semifinal in which we were beaten by Ballylooby.

In the first week of July we had a very successful Summer Camp which was held in the GAA field. Over eighty children took part and the three coaches organised skills competitions and also

*Summer Camp in the GAA Field — 1998*

taught the basic skills of our national games. We also participated in the Tipperary U/11 Ground Hurling Tournament. Our players were in different venues for three Saturdays. Some of our players also played on the hurling and football South Tipperary teams.

As it takes in the region of £3,000 to run the club we ran many different types of fundraising events such as an Easter Egg Raffle, Car Boot Sale, Christmas Hamper etc.. We are grateful to all our supporters and sponsors who have supported us through the year.

# Fethard Open Coursing Club

The past season was a great year in the club's history. We had some great coursing and great sportsmanship was showing by all owners, trainers and judge Arthur Daly, who at all times was very fair and showed great judgement when the buckles were close. The club would like to thank the following for their great work over the year: Denis Shine, our head beater and Tommy Shine his able assistant, Michael Flanagan and Michael Shine for their great effort, Peter O'Sullivan (secretary) and Paddy Hickey (treasurer). Thanks also to our committee D. Barry, M. Jackson, D. O'Dwyer, L. O'Gorman and family, M. Keane, N. Evans, M. Hanrahan, M. Ryan, M. Holland. The club would also like to thank our sponsors CL Eng. Rosegreen, Woodlock Brothers, Ryan's Bar, Drangan, Michael Ferris, O'Sullivan's Chemist, Timmy O'Riordan, Coolmore Stud, Pat Leahy (Agri Stock), McCarthy's Hotel, O'Riordans Ironworks, Maurice Jackson, Sean Morrissey (Bicycle Shop), Donal Leahy, M. Morris. We would also like to thank all landowners.

The 28th of December was the big date with the J.F. O'Sullivan Cup and £800 in prizes. After some great coursing the cup went to Cork with A. Hussey's 'Dromore Tico' beating local hope Michael Flanagan's 'Sensual Sol' in the final. The Duffer for the Olly's Bar Stakes was divided between T. Shine's 'Monroe Heather' and A. Daly's 'Moukey's Road'. Jerry Desmond, Sec. of the Irish Coursing Club, presented the winners with their trophies. M. Flanagan won the Dick Burke Trophy. Cork's M. Hennearty won the Inter County Stake.

The club would like to thank Yvonne Walshe and her staff in the Tirry Centre for their hard work in printing the cards and posters and having them ready at such short notice. Let's hope 1998-99 will be as good as last year and with the same effort it could be. *Yours in sport, Arthur Daly, Chairman.*

## *Remember Rosie*

*Rosie Henehan, The Square.*
*Died on 23rd January 1984, aged 62.*

# Fethard Players

*Cast of this year's production 'Wanted One Body'. Standing back L to R: Sean Ryan, John Fogarty, Ann Connolly, Michael McCarthy. Seated front L to R: Geraldine McCarthy, Gerry Fogarty, Mary O'Connell, Marian Gilpin, Helen Carrigan and Lisa Rice.*

Greetings everyone, Christmas is once again on our doorstep and with another year having flown by it is time to bring you up to date on all that has been happening in the "Fethard Players", this past year. "The Loves of Cass Maguire", was staged in the Abymill last November. Cass, a returned Yankee finding it difficult to fit in anywhere, eventually ends up in a retirement home. The play takes place in the retirement home with the other residents and members of Cass's family. A marvellous play with the leading lady played by Marian Gilpin (Mulligan). Marian, as always, gave a great performance. Congratulations to Anne Connolly, John Fogarty, Carmel Rice, Sean Ryan, Ger McCarthy, Lisa Rice and Gerry Fogarty for their great performances. Once again, Austin O'Flynn outdid himself as producer. To Michael McCarthy, Christy Mullins and Jacinta O'Flynn we say a sincere 'thanks' for the wonderful stage settings. We would also like to thank everyone who supplied us with furniture for the set and everyone who helped in any way.

Our production for this year was "Wanted One Body", a farcical chiller by Raymond Dyer. The show was staged in the Abymill Theatre from Monday 16 November to 22 November.

Our sympathy to Marie O'Sullivan and the O'Sullivan family on the death of Marie's husband Donal who died on the 7th of November this year.

Donal was a gifted member of the Fethard Players. He had many talents, especially as a raconteur, was also a noted businessman, a keen golfer and a good tennis player in his younger days. But it was in his ability as a thespian that these few lines are penned.

Donal played leading roles in most of the productions in the 1950's and '60's and was hugely popular with audiences.

His forte was comedy, an innate sense of timing, a confidence in delaying the punch line until just the right moment, until the audience was about to explode was his genius. He played his roles with ease and aplomb, immersing himself totally in each character. Of course there were times when he also got so carried away with the part that he was inclined to forget his lines — the audience oblivious that trouble had just been averted. His last appearance for the Fethard Players was as Tony in 'The Patsy' in 1969. He starred with Carmel Rice, who played the eponymous heroine in this comedy. During practice, Donal found it hard to remember his lines and had Carmel and the rest of the cast sweating bricks during the week of the show, but it was a huge success. Sometime later Donal presented Carmel with a bottle of perfume and a card inscribed, "To Patsy from Tony – thank you for putting up with me".

His playing in "Stymied" a one act by Joe Tomelty, at the "Feis" in Clonmel in 1956 brought rave comments from Abbey producer Thomas McGunna as also did his characterisation of Hector De La Mare in Lennox Robinson's "Drama at Inish" in 1958. He had audiences rolling in the aisles as Chester Binny in the hilarious "The Whole Towns Talking" in 1960. This show packed the Regal in Clonmel after its run in Fethard. Some of the other dramas that Donal took part in were "Zurika" (Town Hall), "Cobwebs Glory" (Convent Hall), "The Courting of Mary Doyle" (Town Hall) and many of the famous pantomimes of this period which took place in the Capitol Cinema. For many years after he had finished with performing Donal helped behind stage with make up, lending his warm agreeable personality to the proceedings his ready wit and good company will be sadly missed. May he rest in peace.

# I never got the taste – or my name on the bottle

*by Brendan Fergus*

I can never explain the feeling inside of me when on my way to Fethard, the run down through Kerry St. and the turning left along the Cashel Road to where I started out from many years ago. The visits to friends with whom I grew up — John Whyte, a quick hand shake and then away again, five or ten minutes with Austin O'Flynn in Burke Street. There we put the world to right and away again. No goodbyes for we know there will be other times, then up the Cashel Road to Tom and Kathleen McCormack, the knock on the door and Tom's face as he says, "Well, Brendan, come in and sit awhile".

A big hug from Kathleen and she and Sue, my lady, get acquainted and then, "Will you have a drink" and Tom says, "I'll make Sue an Irish Coffee", and we settle down. As usual my friends will say, "You never drank Brendan?" and then inquire why, to which there is no real answer except I never developed a taste. That is not to say that I was never around drink. Oh no, even though my father, Garda Jim Fergus and my mother Mary never drank while we knew them, there was never drink in the house, only minerals, and maybe a drop of whiskey for visitors.

So where did I spend my time around the demon drink? On my hazy journey through the fifties, in between trying to get some kind of education and keeping

body and soul intact, I did many part-time jobs. Sometimes my late brother Vincent and I spent hours and weeks thinning sugar beet etc., but there is another tale.

It was while working for Jack O'Shea of Main Street Fethard that I first came in contact with the 'brown nectar'. I worked the summer of 1956 in his shoe repair shop. Jack also owned a public house now known as Dick Burke's 'Bridge Bar'. In those days Jack used to bottle his own Guinness and the job fell to me on Wednesday evenings. All the equipment for the procedure was at the rear of the pub and the present proprietor said that the gear was still there.

First of all the bottles, large and small, had to washed to a very high standard and Jack himself would inspect most of them. He had a pressure brush and water jets so that every bottle was clean. If a bottle was found to be soiled, I would get a yellow card. The large wooden cask was rocked to and fro until I managed to place it on a wooden bench about eighteen inches off the floor. Then securely in position, with the help of a large wooden mallet in my right hand and a brass tap in my left, I would drive that tap into a plugged hole in the barrel. The piece of 'tackle' for bottling was a work of art. It was of enamelled cast-iron, a kind of trough about eighteen inches by five by five on a stand with four pipes in a 'v' shaped weighted at one end, so that when suspended on a bar above the trough one end was submerged in the beer. Then the tap in the barrel was opened and the trough filled up. As the trough filled I had to suck the brown nectar through each of the four pipes and quickly slip a bottle on so that the liquid flowed of its own accord to fill each bottle, changing the bottles as they filled leaving enough space for the cork – oh yes I had to cork them as well. Every time I sucked I received a small quantity of Guinness but I never acquired a taste for it.

I can't recall how many bottles were

*Jack O'Shea's first Bar in Fethard before it was taken over by his wife's brother-in-law Dick Burke*

filled but to a lad of seventeen it seemed like a lot. Then the final part was to put the labels on the bottles of stout. Each label had to be placed straight, for Jack would not have even one slightly crooked, especially when his name was on the label stating, 'Bottled by J. O'Shea'. I never got my name on the bottle, but I got my six shillings.

Then the whole place was washed, the trough and barrell were emptied of the "dregs" and now I have a confession to make. Every Wednesday one of the lads from out along the Cashel Road would slip in the side door and say, "Brendan, is there any drop to spare?" At the bottom of the barrell there were five or six pints of a treacle-like liquid which this man drank. Then up on his big bike and away home thanking me as he slipped away into the darkness. I just cannot recall his name. I spent many hours in the pub amongst spirits, ales, porters and my only tipple was Cidona.

A rumour went abroad that I was on the drink, as on purpose I would have my apple drink from a tall ale glass, so that the heavy drinkers thought that I was on the boyo. My father knew better, "And Jasus, him a Guard's son and drinking in a pub".

Oh God love them I never developed the taste, nor did I let on.

# My young life in Knockelly

*by Con Fitzgerald*

My parents Thomas (Tom) and Joanna (Jo) R.I.P. told me I was born on the back Green in Fethard. I never knew which cottage, it may have fallen down by now. My earliest childhood memories are of living in what to me was a great big house in Knockelly. Later in life I was told my dad managed the farm and we lived in the farmhouse. I can still see all the rooms, there must have been eight or more and how big they were. There was always somewhere to play and hide. All the front was full of flowers with a big drooping ash which we used to sit and play under. I wonder if it is still there? We were very poor and times were very hard.

My Dad was a great dog-man in those days, greyhounds, of course, what else? One day as we were playing in the field with a ball one of Dad's greyhound pups got out and joined in the fun, running 'round in circles with the ball. No-one could get it from him, but I picked up a stick and, not knowing what injury could be done to a three month old pup, I threw the stick at him and broke one of his legs. As you know, a pup with a broken leg is no good. When Dad came in from working in the fields I was locked away in a room with my Mum on guard outside, or there would have been a murder in Knockelly. My Dad loved his greyhounds, I think, even more than his children.

Another time while playing with a ball it went into a big barrel usually full of water. But on this occasion it contained only a few inches. My sister Peg, R.I.P. was looking after me, but I climbed onto the barrel and fell in head first. All Peg could do was shout, "The child is drowning", until my Mum pulled me out. After that I was always called 'the child' in the family, oh! how a nickname sticks!

The next thing I remember was having to leave the farm. This was explained to me as I got older. The farm was owned by Joe O'Dwyer. I only saw him once or twice. I think he

lived in Fethard with Mr. P. McLennon, who was a relative. He died suddenly and his brother and sister Pat and Margaret O'Dwyer, took over the farm. We moved down the road to the cottage a couple of hundred yards away.

Then I started school, and no medals or anything else were won by me, but it was not the teacher's fault. Thinking back, I can remember the teachers very well, Tim O'Keeffe, Brother McCarton, Brother Gilbert and Brother Stanislaus. They had a tough time with us lot.

I came home from school one day and my Mum told us that Dad had gone to work in England like many men in and around Fethard at that time. Later Mum told us that as a young man Dad had been a very good cyclist, and how on one occasion he cycled to Cork for the Munster Championship with two racing wheels on his back. He won the race and the first prize was a wicker armchair which he tied to his back with two racing wheels and cycled back home. All that, just to compete! When school days were finished, my wish was to become a joiner, but in those days if none of your family or relatives were in the building trade you could not get in – that is what we were told. I suppose it was a case of who you knew. However, my working life started on the farm for Mr. P. Anglim, Knockelly. After 6 months I moved to Mr. J. Hunt of Saucestown for two very happy years until I started my apprenticeship in gents hairdressing with Mr. P. Hassey of Gladstone Street, Clonmel. That meant cycling to and from Clonmel every morning and night, covering a mileage of about 23,000 miles in about four years. I wonder if any teenagers would do it today, they would probably think I was mad, as they would want a car.

One day, on my way home from Clonmel, a young lad in Lisronagh fooling around with his friends jumped straight into my front wheel and buckled it so bad I had to walk home the rest of the way. On another occasion, one winter's night, I was stopped by a Garda for not having a light. I was fined five shillings, which was a lot to me as I had no wage at that time. My Mum had to pay a fee for my apprenticeship with no wages for twelve months, so I have a record after all! Then there was a time when I needed new cycle tyres which could only be bought on the "black market." I went to a certain house and paid £1 for two tyres, the normal cost was about three shillings each.

Once, during the big freeze of 1947, I was pushing my bike up Market Hill on the grass verge when a well known business man passed me in his car, and not many men had cars in those days. He got stuck on the icy road a few yards further up. I helped push him and his car to the top of the hill and off he went leaving me to walk back down for my bike with no offer of a lift to Clonmel. When I got to work, the same man was having a shave and haircut in the shop. My boss was very annoyed when I told him what had happened.

A group of us used to go swimming in the river when the weather permitted, anywhere from Peppardstown to Crampscastle. Once, we were swimming below the bungalow at that time owned by Mrs. Longbottom. Whilst getting dressed, I realised one of my friends was missing. Without thinking, I jumped into the river and there he was lying on the bottom. With the help of my friend Dick O'Gorman and the oth-

ers, we dragged him on to the bank and somehow got him breathing again. We didn't know any first aid, but thank God he was alright. Can you remember anything about it Tom S? Shortly after that my best friend Dick O'Gorman emigrated to the U.S.A. Our highlight of the week was the dance held in the Town Hall, starting at 9 p.m. and finishing at 3a.m., but we still got up for work the following day. One Sunday evening, when cycling down Burke Street in a rush to get to the Abbey Church, a group of children were playing 'chicken' outside Maude Green's shop. Unfortunately, I was the unlucky one they choose to run in front of. One little boy left it too late and he hit my front wheel full on and I hit the road near Jack Kenrick's shop. Everyone was worried about the little boy, but no one bothered about me. I think it might have been Austin O'Flynn, do you remember it? Obviously, I didn't get to church.

This was part of my life until I left for England in 1949, but for me Fethard and Knockelly will always be home. I love to come back home for holidays as often as possible. I wish all in Fethard and district and all readers of the Newsletter a very happy and holy Christmas. God bless all.

*Old Fethard Carnival entry "The Pub With No Beer" Tom Sheehan, Mikey Looby, Billy Murphy (Knockelly), Georgie Matthews, Mickey Doyle and Pat Murphy.*

# Meals on Wheels

The Meals on Wheels is now operating from the Tirry Community Centre, and working happily hand-in-glove with the Day Care Centre staff. While the Day Care operates a four day week, we still deliver Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and on those days the meals for all clients are prepared together. Then the thirty or so meals to be delivered in town and its environs are put into special hot-locks and taken away by the volunteers to those who want it at home. Home delivery is a time to say a quick 'hello' and have a little chat, which is enjoyed by all concerned, not in the least by the Transition Year pupils from the Secondary School who help with the delivery, and who have developed a great rapport with the recipients. Indeed, the students help with this service is invaluable and adds to the whole 'sense of community'.

Thanks to all, our generous patrons and volunteers without whose help this worthy service could not continue.

# Racquetball revived in Coolmoyne

Amongst the great social occasions of the year was the official opening of Coolmoyne ball alley on 16 July 1998. Local man Tom Noonan was the main instigator of the operation and along with the opening, blessing, eating and drinking there was an official publication to mark the occasion. The ball alley's history goes back many years to the days when it was the old school house. Back in the thirties it was a very popular handball centre and again when the mid 70's revival of the game saw the Coolmoyne alley updated.

*Pictured outside Coolmoyne Racquetball Alley are L to R: Tom Noonan, project coordinator; Declan Brown, who unveiled the plaque; Sergeant Michael Haran and Fr. Michael Barry.*

In 1984 a racquetball club was formed but by the end of the decade the interest had dwindled. Last year Tom Noonan was instrumental in forming a new racquetball club and with almost 150 members they decided to redecorate the Coolmoyne ball alley to a suitable standard for running competition. The venture proved to be a major success.

Echoes of 'Let Fly Coolmoyne' are still to be heard although the handball game of yesteryear is no more to be seen on Coolmoyne ground.

# GLADIATOR H I - ONE

***(in memory of Patrick Kenrick)***

*Framed in an eight inch photograph*
*The majesty of the Gladiator somewhat dimmed.*
*What was it like in 1904 to drive*
*The first registered motor car in South Tipperary?*

*Patrick Kenrick*

*Your only unfailing weekly visitor*
*Enlivened your boredom.*
*We all came running as we heard it*
*Coming over the first bridge in Clonmel.*

*Those later years were cruel*
*Far removed from the mighty Gladiator.*
*Poor circulation, the curse of the elderly*
*In the fifties, caused the loss of a leg.*

*Catherine Kenrick*
*(his sister)*

*Things could have been better ordered*
*Between us, you spent so much time telling me*
*To be quiet, rather than regaling me with tales of wonder.*
*We spent our time competing for another's affection.*

*Forgotten in the pub by the local clown*
*You would have pined for the Gladiator,*
*As you sat in sadness in your wheelchair.*
*With barely enough drink to oil your wheels.*

*— Frank Marshall (grandson)*

*Gladiator HI - 1*

# The Shore

*by John Ryan (Clonmel)*

I fell into it once when I was five and in short pants and I can still feel the stinging of the nettles. It was dangerous and unsightly and for my father it became an obsession to have it fixed. He made many efforts to have it piped and filled in. I remember once when he set off the few miles in the ass and car to talk to Councillor Jack Ahessy about it. He also wrote letters about it, and whenever Bill O'Keeffe and Ernie Wilson or anyone else from the County Council worked on the roads nearby, or drank tea in the house, they were reminded about it and always asked to do something about it.

The shore, as we called it, was the open stream, which ran down the road about eight feet outside the gate of our home in St. Johnstown. Jim, my father, worked on a farm all his life, was very handy and he could "turn his hand to anything". He had great plans to build entrance piers and walls, a porch which would replace the half door, a shed at the side, and walls around the house. He wanted so badly to have the shore fixed by the Council, he couldn't afford to do it himself, and as he often said "it would put the finishing touch" to his own plans.

That was back in 1947, the year of the big snow. It was such a heavy fall that it filled the roads as high as the ditches. I was seven then, and walked the two miles to school. We had some firewood in for the winter, and a small

*St. Johnstown school 1923 : Back L to R: Miss Miller, Kitty Plant, Deb Smythe, Lill Plant. Harry Smythe. Third Row: John Smythe, George Smythe, Billy Lawless, Bill Ryan. Second Row: Kit Spencer, Daisy Bradshaw, Maureen Hayden, Chaddie Smythe, Lizzy Smythe, John Hayden Plant, Lizzy Spencer. Front L to R: Frank Spencer, Ina Hayden, Dolly Hayden, Gonzy Bradshaw, Tommy Hayden and Nell Ryan.*

stock of culm balls which were made from slack and coal dust, mixed with yellow clay and 'danced' before we made the balls with our hands. The glow and heat from a well-set fire of culm balls, the soft light of the paraffin lamp, neighbours calling and stories around the fire, Radio Luxembourg and Miceál O'Heihir on the wireless with the wet and dry batteries, and the 'mug of goody' before I was sent to bed with the tin hot water bottle in a sock. Those warm and happy experiences of my young life were troubled only by the pain in my tender knees on the bare concrete floor for the five decades of the Rosary, the litany of the saints and a few 'trimmings' every night.

The big snow interrupted my father's plans. He got many a 'wetting' as a farm worker and it was in the winter of forty-six/forty-seven that he got sick. It was the first time I heard the word pleurisy. The doctor came, but it never cleared up and as time went by, he did not recover as we thought he would. He and my mother had then to come to terms with the cruel reality of T.B. Our lives changed then and for the next eight years my father fought his brave battle against the dreaded disease, while he and my mother reared three of us on just a couple of pounds a week assistance money, shoe vouchers, and with the help of good and kind neighbours and local shopkeeper, Ned Campion's, credit and generosity.

Bit by bit through the early years of his illness, Jim built the piers and entrance walls and capped them. He managed to buy a load of sand and a few bags of cement. He made models with a few old boards, held them together with wire, and used them again and again. He put the shed up against the house, lined it with tar barrels which he cut open and straightened out, and roofed it with a few second-hand sheets of galvanise. He built several small walls around my mother's flowerbeds. She loved the roses, daffodils, sweet pea and geraniums, and she kept those beds very beautiful. The half-acre plot was never without potatoes, vegetables and the finest rhubarb. My father soled shoes, cut our hair, and I cut his, and he grew and sold cabbage plants at half a crown for a hundred.

My mother patched our clothes, darned our socks and once a year or so, with a gleam in her eye, she opened the parcel of clothes which arrived from her sister, our Aunt Ellie in Oxford. We killed a pig every year. It was a big day when I cried for the pig, but feasted for weeks and the neighbours did too on pork and oh! the home-made puddings. I snared rabbits in Hayden's field and the hens that we kept meant we always had fresh eggs. I cannot remember ever not having a hot dinner when we came home from school.

As the years passed the half century, and my father became more ill, I helped him do things around the house and in the garden, never as much as I should and often begrudgingly when I wanted to be somewhere else — playing skittles at the cross, hurling in Meehan's field, or playing forty-fives or a hundred and ten with my elders at Morrisseys. "Keep a cool head, a dry foot and an odd look back", was advice he gave me on more than one occasion. I remember once, and will always remember, after I rebelled and refused to do something for him he said he expected me to look after my mother and sisters when he was gone.

In 1955, eight years after the big snow, the ambulance came one day to take him the forty or so miles to Ardkeen Hospital. The neighbours said that "he had failed a lot" in the months

before. I remember that day well, the ambulance and the things left unsaid. I was fifteen then, and my youth shielded me from the heartache and pain which my mother and father must have suffered as we said our farewells and he parted from his family on the roadway outside the home he loved so much.

Jim died in Ardkeen without seeing us again. T.B. had claimed my father's life before his own and the nation's hero Dr. Noel Brown succeeded in saving so many and ridding the country of the epidemic. The Council never fixed the shore.

*Anglim's Farm Knockelly. Includes Paddy and William Anglim, Connie O'Donnell, Edmond O'Donnell, John 'Cutsie' O'Donnell, Bunny Anglim, Tess Anglim, Angela Anglim, Ita and Ena Murphy (relatives from Dublin).*

# Irish Red Cross Society

Once again it is time to record the activities of our branch during the year. A number of our members travelled to Roscrea to attend a general meeting to review an area development plan from 1998 to the year 2000. A new ambulance was also presented to the Tipperary branch to be used at sports and racing meetings, whenever an ambulance is required. The keys were given to Comdt. Anthony Lawlor by Michael Smith T.D. and afterwards a social evening was held. One of our members, Mrs Jacqueline O'Gorman, received the Voluntary Carer Award last year. This year she travelled to England and Donegal and worked as Supervisor. She is well qualified for the position.

Tomás O'Connell, our former Chairman, entered St. Patrick's College, Thurles, some time ago to study for the priesthood. He will be ordained next June and we wish him well in his sacred ministry. We would also like to remember Mrs Sheila Slattery, a nurse from Clonmel, who died recently. She gave lectures to the Fethard Branch some years ago. We hope to start lectures in the New Year on 'safety in the workplace'. We held them some time ago and they proved very popular, being requested again. A knowledge of first-aid is very necessary in present day factories and farms where so many accidents happen every day.

We invite new members to join, they will be very welcome, and it might even help them in their future careers as nurses or carers.

# *If I could paint a Picture*

*by Paddy Carroll*

*This is one of the lesser-known poems of Paddy Carroll, Kilnockin. He gave it to me almost 40 years ago and I still have the original copy in Paddy's handwriting. (Tony Newport)*

*If I could paint a picture*
*Of the scenes that are in my mind*
*I'd picture dear old Ireland*
*In the days long left behind*
*It would be a simple memory*
*Of the days I used to know*
*And here is the way I'd start to paint*
*The scenes of long ago.*

*I'd paint a leaf of shamrock*
*That emblem I love all the while*
*I'd paint the tears old Ireland has shed*
*And I'd wipe them away with a smile*
*I'd paint all the sunshine and leave out the rain*
*And I'd bid every sorrow depart*
*Then that picture of old, I'd frame with the gold*
*That lives in each true Irish heart.*

*Then I'd paint a simple homestead*
*With a grand old couple there*
*And I'd wipe away the sorrow*
*From a brow that's wrought with care.*
*Beneath those dear old rafters*
*In that home just let me rest*
*For it's there you'll find the happiness*
*That true hearts love the best.*

# *Lament for an Irish Mother*

*by Tom McCormack*

*For the short time that I knew her*
*I really did admire*
*Her vibrant personality*
*Like a warm winter's fire*
*Her love of all things Gaelic*
*Which shone out clear and bright*
*Like a crackling, flickering, bonfire*
*At the stillness of the night*

*I wish I'd known her better*
*From her I would have gained*
*The measure of true Irishness*
*Which she lovingly proclaimed.*
*But the will of God has twarted me*
*His reasons I don't doubt*
*Like the morning's bonfire embers*
*The spark has flickered out.*

# *Clashawley Pirates*

*by Mrs Nora Gough*

*Composed by Mrs Nora Gough, originally for her annual production of the schools pantomime circa 1937-'38. (Words supplied by Georgie Matthews and Tony Newport)*

*We're pirates bold and we sailed the seas*
*From the Valley to Cloneen*
*We wallowed in gore at Rathcoole foreshore*
*When we captured Carraigeen.*

*We came ashore at Coolmoyne Head*
*That made the natives splutter*
*We made a raid that left twenty dead*
*And choked the rest with butter.*

*We struck a rock at Sparragolea*
*Took a share in a plot on the Green*
*Stove in our bows at Kerry St pump*
*And captured Farnaleen.*

*We sailed the Clashawley from east to west*
*And battled its raging swell*
*Which caused our boys to loose their zest*
*But we could not loose the smell.*

*"The Clashawley Pirates" led by Jim O'Sullivan (Jnr) Chemist.*

# Highways and Byways

*by Jimmy McInerney*

It's November and the spirit of summer is fleeting away. The trees have lost or are quickly losing their foliage. The swallow has taken his leave. The bleak leaden clouds obscure the whole sky and lie like a pall over the earth.

With the clamour and clutter of modern living it's a very useful thing to have pictures of tranquil scenes in mind, to brighten our hearts when they are low, when hurt, or when loneliness breaks down our defences. I believe it is scenes from nature mostly, which create a mood enabling us to 'take things as the come' and shrug the shoulders.

Only last week, Beardy, my faithful companion, came with me for our afternoon ramble. There was a measure of urgency in our steps, as we took a course in the direction of Móin Beag where an old boreen leading over Market Hill was lately cleared of scrub. On the way we passed by the remains of Saint Martin's Temple where in times past stillborn infants were laid to rest within its walls. Whenever I pass this relic of the distant past, Longfellow's poem 'The Reaper and the Flowers' comes readily to mind. We'll quote a few lines here:

*My Lord has need of these Flowerets Gay,*
*The Reaper said, and smiled;*
*Dear Tokens of the Earth are they,*
*Where he was once a child.*
*They shall all bloom in fields of light.*
*Transplanted by my Care,*
*And saints, upon their garments white,*
*These Sacred Blossoms Wear.*

We are nearing our goal as we pass by Crean's family farm. Over the years and through neglect, bramble and thorn

*Pictured, this summer, during the clearing of the Strylea walk to Rocklow Road are L to R: Joe Kenny, Johnny Burke, David Sceats, Tom McCormack, Miceál McCormack and Jimmy O'Shea.*

growing at the sides of the boreen made as it were a third hedge in the middle of the pathway. Chivalrous in spirit and devoted to what needed to be done the wayside is now open to all. While we sat in our armchairs those fresh-faced conservationists Jimmy O'Shea, Tom McCormack, Johnny Burke and Miceál McCormack – all members of our local 'conservation corps', put in many summer evenings clearing scrub, thorn and briar from our byways, insuring the rights of those who value pedestrian independence and enjoy what these ancient places have to offer.

A short distance travelling southwards we notice a gateway, the stone pillar has a niche or recess in the centre which I gather was, in times past, the postman's deposit box. It was here at this spot, and in the recess, that the American letter was eagerly awaited; hopefully, with good news, from a husband, son, or daughter forced to flee the hill during the post famine. The saying was, "Send Jimmy to America where money grows on trees. He could get some and send it back to us".

As we continue southwards, elders and thorns cross their green branches forming a complete arch and casting a delicious shadow — it is in the shadow that we enjoy. The summer part of the path is barred by a gateway but beyond this point it continues its straight course rising up a gentle slope turning westwards. My attention is drawn to an ash scantling growing out of the bankside. Its resemblance to a forearm bent in salutation is striking, if not surprising, as the ash tree is known to be mannerly and urbane. Further progress and we are skirting plantation land growing acres of commercial timber, where not too long ago dairy cows munched the soft grass or were led out to pasture. Beneath the golden bloom of the furze, green finches rose with sweet notes from the long grass. But listen, the song of the robin is clear and lively. They are the very spies of the woods, there are no thrushes, no blackbirds, finches, nor even sparrows. In September most birds have ceased to sing, but there is honeysuckle still flowering and the gossamer is a sure sign of autumn. The haws are red, leaves are falling, so, it is goodbye to summer flowers. From hence the boreen (as yet unfinished) becomes wider and rougher at every step and has its outlet on the brow of Market Hill road (Andy's Gap).

The wanderer who cares to stray off the highways is likely to stumble over the homes of earlier generations. Evidence is there to bear out this reasoning that along with what remains of old fruit bushes tell their own tale. For myself I like to wander reflectively down the old boreens where livestock went to market, where hawthorn and bramble, briar and hazel put forth their leaves. June roses open their petals on the briars pleased to remember a time when the scent of new mown hay from the meadow wafted over the countryside.

Before I go, it's 'hats-off' to Johnny, Tom, Jimmy and Miceál who selflessly with bloodied hands and under threatening skies cleared a little oasis for us to traverse at will. We, all of us, should applaud this new awareness. The 'conservation corps' is part of the council for nature and functions under the auspices of Fethard's Historical Society. Membership is open to all who would wish to participate in this work, others who would still be interested in supporting such projects can become associate members. Information on future 'task' programmes can be had from any of the above.

# St. Patrick's Boys National School

1998 was a year of great change for St. Patrick's Boys National School. Mrs Alice Quinn retired this summer after many years of dedicated teaching. Her presence and commitment is missed by all. Many have fond memories of their First Communion day and the important role she played in preparing them for it. We wish her a long and happy retirement. We also extend a hearty welcome to Carmel Lonergan who has been appointed to our staff and who is teaching first and second classes.

During the summer holidays some improvements were made to the school. These included the installation of a new boiler, new toilets and new blinds in the classrooms. These improvements were long overdue and we hope that pupils will continue to treat all school property with respect. Our computer room is practically up and running. Our pupils will have the use of five computers and this will be of tremendous benefit to them. We would be more than delighted to hear from anyone who could give us advice and help in order to use them to best advantage.

A big 'thank you' is extended to our Parents Association who recently organised a table quiz to raise funds. Last June they launched an essay competition for fifth and sixth classes. The essay 'Sport — what it means to me', was won by Brian Kennedy and he received a £50 sports voucher. The Parents Association also helped with supervision of swimming classes in the second term. Boys from all classes had the opportunity to attend lessons at Clonmel Swimming Pool and received badges and certificates on completion.

Martha Sheehan's work with the boys in 'speech and drama' was a great success. A performance of their work took place in June and parents saw first-hand how well the boys participated and

*St. Patrick's Boys School Sixth Class '98. Back L to R: William O'Brien, Shane Walshe, Paul Kenrick, James Smyth, Ronan O'Meara, Brian Conway, Darren Sharpe and Catriona Horan (teacher). Middle Row L to R: Cian Moloney, Mike Kelly, Connie O'Flynn, David Sullivan, John Leahy, Gerard Walsh, Brian Kennedy. Front L to R: Michael Leahy, Damien Shine, Bill Walsh, Cathal Brett, Mark Lawless and Francis Lonergan.*

*Winners of the school soccer league final. The final was played in atrocious conditions watched by Middlesborough Scout, Freddie Murray, Clonmel. Medals for the winners and runners-up were sponsored by An Garda Síochána. Back L to R: Freddie Murray (Middlesborough Scout); P. J. Morrissey, Patrick O'Brien, Michael Lawrence, Connie O'Flynn and Garda Mairéad O'Farrell who presented the medals. Front L to R: Michael McCarthy, John Leahy (captain), Stephen O'Meara and Dermot Culligan.*

enjoyed the work. We have decided to continue lessons again this year.

Our school tour last June had a strong theme of water! Senior classes went to Clara Lara — a water based activity park in Wicklow. Junior classes went to Trabolgan in Cork. Luckily the rain held off until the journey home although the boys probably wouldn't have noticed if the 'heavens' had opened on them!

1998 was the first year we has no First Communion class as it has now been moved to second class pupils. However, forty-six of our boys received the Sacrament of Confirmation on May 15th.

On a competitive note our pupils were neither lacking in enthusiasm or ability! Alan Bourke was selected to play for the Tipperary schools football team. Many pupils took part in a soccer tournament organised by Gerry Lawless and sponsored by An Garda Síochána. Congratulations and thanks to all.

Various art and craft competitions were entered, some results of these were: Alan O'Connor and Dave Gorey won gold medals at the community games. Just recently, Cathal Maher came first and second in the watercolour section of the Fethard Flower Show. In athletics, David Sullivan took third place in cross-country, which was held in Horse and Jockey. Bill Walsh and Richard Gorey received certificates for participating in the Tipperary Schools Swimming Competition. Participating in the inters-chool football league is underway. Our U/13 team made a disappointing start against Thurles but have recovered beating Templemore recently. Our U/11 team are through to the semifinal. Best of luck to both teams.

In September a non-uniform day was organised to raise money for Hospice. Almost £65 was raised for this very worthy cause.

Finally, we would like to wish everybody a happy and peaceful Christmas. "Athbhliain shona daoibh go léir!"

# Over 75 years trading

*by Liam Cloonan*

*Kenny's Centra Foodmarket*

The Kenny family grocery business was started by Lory Kenny over 76 years ago in the Green, and, believe it or not, the original plaster and dash finish is still on the house where the business started.

When Lory died in 1962, leaving a young family, his wife, affectionately know as Mon, continued the business on her own. The long hours Mon spent in the shop over the years kept the business thriving in a time when many small shops were closing.

Larry Kenny was only 14 when his father died. While working in Dublin he met and married his wife Rosena before returning to his native Fethard in the mid seventies, to open a hardware shop adjacent to the family business. He then took over the family grocery business and transferred it to his 1,000 square feet premises next door. He subsequently joined the Centra group and with the future in mind has now increased his floor space from 1000 to 2,700 square feet. In doing so Larry has invested £300,000 in the business and in keeping with Centra's standards and development policy, Kenny's Foodmarket includes a butchery, wine section, hot food and deli counter along with the usual groceries, fruit and vegetables, sweets, confectionery and newspapers. It is the first premises in Fethard to have automatic doors and also the first in Fethard to utilise computer scanning which means that prices are updated immediately at the tills and orders can be sent or charged by means of computer.

Fethard's largest foodstore aims to provide quality food and receives deliveries from the central depot three times a week. Kenny's is open from 7.30a.m until 9p.m every day of the week and has a staff of over twenty on the payroll. "The existing shop", said Larry, "was inadequate for the modern standards required." There was not enough space to cater for people's requirements and eating habits which have changed over the years.

The Centra Supervalu Group now account for 25% of the grocery market in Ireland, he points out. In the meantime Larry and Rosena aim to provide a full shopping service for the locals and though it is early stages yet, Larry feels justified with the investment and the response from his customers.

# My youthful days in Killusty

*by Johnny Sheehan*

A recent programme on RTE, depicting a family eviction in Ireland and the house razed to the ground, brought back memories of similar stories told to me by my grandmother and my father over seventy years ago. They had been victims of similar circumstances in 1902 when my dad was only six years old and they were forced from their home which they saw it go up in flames. Of course they were not alone as a lot of poor and underprivileged fell victims to the brutality of unscrupulous landlords in those dark days.

I also remember being told of an eviction and seizure in Kilbury near Cloneen. All the cattle were taken to the pound in Clonmel and put up for auction and when the auctioneer asked for a 'bid' the owner stepped forward and said, "These cattle are from Kilbury, offer a good price". When the potential buyers heard the word "Kilbury" there was no bidding so the cattle were not sold and some kind of compromise had to be arrived at.

There was also another story of the dark days about a family burned to death at Ballynattin over in Peafield/Cloran area. They had migrant labourers from Kerry digging out the potatoes and when they came out after a dinner of yellow meal ,'stirabout', and sour milk, the handles of their spades had been labelled warning them to leave the area (apparently they worked cheaper than local labour). They refused to leave and that night at suppertime the door was tied,

*Killusty group from the 1950's. Back: John Quinn, Chris Grant, Jackie Cahill, Tom Ryan, Jimmy Walsh, Connie Ryan, Joe Hanrahan, Bill O'Brien, Christy Lee. Middle: Connie Cahill, Tommy Kearney, Ned Sheehan, Johnny Whelan, Tom Tobin, Pat Corbett. Front: Willie Cahill and John Donovan.*

and the thatch set alight and everybody burned to death including the woman of the house and her infant child. They were unable to escape through the windows, as in those days all windows were extremely small because the rent was assessed on the number and size of windows — hence all the old houses had small windows. This atrocity is not spoken of very much, at least it didn't get the same media coverage as the 'Burning at Ballyvadlea'. A lot of our local ancient history is gone forever with our forebears and gone also are a lot of the families we once knew, especially from the slopes of Slievenamon, an area that was once a hive of activity. All the small holdings with a few sheep, cattle and pigs, going to the fair in Fethard, getting up at 3 a.m. that morning. Most all of these people had a pony or a jennet and a mountain car and you could hear the pony-drawn cars noisily travelling the boreens.

I remember Jamsie Birmingham and his sister Mary living near Walshbog, 'Cummer' on Cloran Hill on a summer's evening. They would play the bagpipes in their yard and we used to hear the music wafting along the valley below. On the Claremore side of the Anner, you had Paddy Davis who used sit outside his door and play the melodeon. We could also hear his music as it wafted along the valley.

At that time you had the train from Fethard to Clonmel every evening and as it passed through Grove Wood the driver would blow the whistle. That was exactly at twenty past four. There was also a bell on Robert O'Shea's in Cloran and it used to ring at 7 a.m., 12 noon and 6 p.m. for the workmen to start or stop. There was another bell in Grove House so we always knew the time of day. The old clock we had used to be called a 'wall-wagger' and had long since retired from service. I can still see it in my mind with its two weight chains and pendulum, but no hand movement. We had no need for a clock as nobody was going any where. Times were extremely hard in the 30's and 40's but improved for us as we grew up and went to England in the early 50's. I hope to write about that era next year. In the meantime, "Thank you' England".

# Patrician Presentation School

The 1998-'99 academic year commenced on August 31st after a 'refreshing' summer, if not one blessed by endless hot summer days. Our leaving certificate class were now almost on their way to greater third level institutions having achieved excellent results, followed by a very enjoyable 'Debs Ball' held in Kilcoran Lodge.

A new feature of this academic year is the 'class assembly' for each year group which gives them a few minutes to reflect and catch up on school news which may have slipped their notice on a busy school day. Traditionally, the 'settling in' period of the first few weeks is full of hustle and bustle and this was added to this year by the erection of a new extension comprising two extra rooms. Now that these are almost completed, "all's quiet on the western front" once more.

Our sixth years ('Grease Gang' of '98) have the hard graft of preparing for Leaving Cert ahead of them and our first years are experiencing secondary school life for the first time. On Monday, October 28, Canon Power P.P. celebrated the opening Mass of the school year. The entire school and staff were in attendance

*Mr. Ernan Britton, principal Patrician Presentation Secondary School presenting Eoin Doyle, Strylea, Fethard, with the 'Pádraig Pearse Perpetual Memorial Cup' for his academic excellence at the school this year.*

and Kevin Hickey was the musical accompanist. On Wednesday November 4, Archbishop Dermot Clifford paid his biannual visit to the school and a prayer service was held.

It wasn't all work and no play for the sixth years either, as they travelled out on two occasions to Cork to see productions of 'Hard Times' and 'Macbeth' — both on the programme for 1999.

The 1998-'99 transition year got off to an energetic start by visiting Brú Ború and then travelling to Delphi for an enjoyable few days outdoor pursuits at the centre there. Presently they are rehearsing for the forthcoming production of 'Me and My Girl' which will commence its run in the Abymill Theatre on Dec. 18th, hopefully, following in the wake of a highly successful 'Godspell'.

The Pádraig Pearse Perpetual Trophy for excellence in junior cert results was awarded to Eoin Doyle, now in transition year, and was presented by Mr. Ernan Britton, school principal. Other achievements which come to mind during the past year, were the 1798 Rebellion competition success of Marissa Roche, Patrice Tobin and Noelle Leahy, all three of second year, and Yvette Walsh and Rebecca Carroll, also of second year in the Young Entrepreneurs Competition.

Of course the huge success of the year was the winning of the All Ireland Volleyball on Saturday March 21st, where the girls gave a thrilling performance in Limerick and won comfortably. Their coach and P.E. teacher Bernie O'Connor has since, with great joy, welcomed a new sporting enthusiast to her home, baby Niamh. Our football, hurling and camogie teams all did very well, and Denis Burke is hoping for an even better year to come.

The transition year 'Concern' debating

team of Aideen O'Donnell, John Lonergan, Ross Maher, Thomas Grant and Lisa Hanrahan are about to meet Nenagh C.B.S. as I write, and so we hope that all good luck goes with them. As the circle of life brings us closer to the Millennium we, the students and staff, extend our greetings to you, and our hope that despite the pleasure and stress of points and results we will remain true to ourselves and to you, our friends. To all of you , near and far, Christmas Peace!

***ALL IRELAND CHAMPIONS***

*Fethard put some disappointments of recent years firmly behind team when they captured the all-Ireland cadette (under-17) 'A' volleyball title in Limerick on Saturday 21st March. An original entry of 60 schools had finally come down to two with Fethard facing Presentation Convent, Galway in the premier 'A' final. Beaten in the 'C' final of 1996, Fethard could have opted for 'C' or even 'B' but a string of victories propelled them into 'A' and they reserved their very best form for this game. When Fethard's Aisling O'Riordan took a Galway smash from within inches of the floor and returned a rocket to the other side of the net for an 8-3 lead, the Galway girls were beaten psychologically even though they played gamely to keep the scores close. However, a straight sets victory reflected Fethard's greater fitness, technique and focus. Such was the Fethard dominance that the final lasted only 31 minutes, an incredibly short time in volleyball terms. The score was 15-5 in the first set and 15-8 victory in the second set. The all-Ireland trophy was accepted by Irish international, Rachel Outram and the Fethard joy was complete when Aisling O'Riordan took the MVP (most valuable player) trophy to the great delight of Fethard coach, Bernie O'Connor. Fethard squad Back L to R: Jean Morrissey, Siobhán White, Edel Fitzgerald, Deirdre Keane, Mary Lee and Bernie O'Connor (coach). Front L to R: Mary Doyle, Aisling O'Riordan, Rachel Outram (capt.), Nora O'Meara, Audrey Conway and Marie Houlihan. The trophy was last won by Fethard back in 1974.*

*Fethard First Division Badminton Team in the 1950's. Back L to R: Sean Henehan, Jimmy McCarthy, Frank McCarthy, Cly Mullins, Tony Newport. Front L to R: Laura Ward, Betty Holohan, Mary (Kenny) Newport, Marie (McCarthy) O'Sullivan, Pat (McCarthy)Walsh and Áine Tierney.*

# Fethard Badminton Club

The Badminton club, based in the Town Hall, has resumed activities for the 1999 season under the watchful eye of chairman and coach, Pat Ryan. Practice sessions take place on four nights per week, Monday to Thursday inclusive. Over twenty people play regularly and help maintain the great tradition established in the forties and fifties by the Fethard Badminton Club.

At the AGM, Pat Ryan was elected chairman with secretarial duties combined, with the finance portfolio going to Fiona Lawrence. Team selectors are Pat Ryan, Catherine Morrissey and Ger Browne.

The county leagues will not start this year until after Christmas, so competition is underway for ladies' and men's league and cup competitions. The club's forth division team comprising of Pat Ryan, J.P. Connolly, Ger Brown and Andrew O'Donovan contested the county final in Cashel on Nov 29th. Likewise, Miceál McCormack, James Dorney, Matt O'Shea and Noel Sharpe represented the club in the sixth division final on the same night and venue.

On Friday Nov. 27th at Hillview, Clonmel, Pat Ryan contested the County Singles Final in the forth division. Valentine O'Dwyer will represent the club in the sixth division final. Our Third Division Cup Team is: Catherine Morrissey, Fiona Lawrence, Aisling Kenny, Catherine Kenny, Pat Ryan, J. P. Connolly, Ger Browne and Andrew O'Donovan. Our Sixth Division Cup team is: Monica Hickey, Mary Shanahan, Freda Hayes, James Dorney, Matt O'Shea, Miceál McCormack, Noel Sharpe and Val O'Dwyer.

Happy Christmas to all former players and our friends throughout the world.

# Thoughts from an Emigrant's Room

*by Jimmy O'Donnell*

This is the beginning of 'The National Year of Reading'. I must admit that during my earlier years book-reading was the last thing on my mind. I just wasn't interested. I felt I didn't have to be trapped into "Literature" when a fulfilment in many of Fethard's gamepowers was there for the taking. Hurling and football, card playing at Newports, Bretts and McDonnells, horse racing and the Clonmel Greyhound Track, rabbit hunting with a pack of up to 14 dogs, as well as the odd game of Pitch and Toss which was against the law and kept some members of the Gardai on active duty. English wasn't among my favourite school subjects. Maths and commerce were my priorities and were to be an enormous benefit in my career as an accountant. I must also include the Irish language and all that it connotes with its richness.

Granted, I did have tuition from my father in the construction of essay writing. Homework compositions during my spell in secondary school included 'Irish Emigration' and 'The Actor and his Art'. Coincidentally in the years to follow I became an emigrant and a Fellow of Playwrights and Pen all associated with the actor and his art.

Even though my father wasn't a total bookworm, he kept a large collection of books and always seemed to enjoy a good read. And there was no scarcity of books in my father's parents place in Kiltinan, both of whom were teachers in Coolmoyne and Killusty. Likewise, my mother's parents were also teachers in the

*Pictured at Brett's Pub window, Main Street. L to R: Tony Newport, Cly Mullins, Percy Dillon, Jimmy McCarthy and Jimmy O'Donnell. Taken on the 8th May 1949 by P. O'Sullivan.*

Bansha area, had a fine library and always supported the fact that books can take you into almost every country in the world. But up to this point I still wasn't interested in putting my head in any book. Listening to those who respected books and adored the written word I did, I suppose, consider at intervals if books would ever open the windows of wonder to me.

Leaving school I was employed by Sean Henehan, Auctioneer, who had sales of furniture every month, and greyhound sales at Clonmel. Happy times, simple times. During that period I clerked at horse and greyhound racings for Michael O'Keeffe, Philly O'Meara, Dick Hayes, Dick McCarthy, Johnny Moynihan and Bill Quinlan. Those racing assignments were theatrically funny and entertaining. Michael O'Keeffe based his looks on Clark Gable and would render song after song when homeward bound whether with gains or losses, it made no difference. He would always sit in the front passenger seat of a hired hackney owned by Gussie Morrissey of Grove. Michael's seat became known by some as the upper circle and by others as the orchestra pit. Bill Quinlan, on the other hand, varied in humours. Winning he was a joy to behold, having the natural art of creating a smiling audience, but losing, he was in the wars. At one Leopardstown race meeting losses far exceeded Bill's budget. That was the day I learned a new vocabulary in English literature.

Another night at Clonmel Dogs I was working for Michael O'Keeffe. A greyhound called 'Tobequitehonestwithyou' was among the runners. Michael's interpretation of the word, as he yelled out two-to-one was 'Tuberculous'. I heard two fellows behind my back who were studying form remarking that, "Your man the bookmaker knows something the greyhound must be diseased with T.B."

In the Autumn of '49 I left for Birmingham with Maurice Harrington and Jim Heffernan to join my late brother Sean who had arranged accommodation for us. I was fortunate to have lodgings with Denis and Mary O'Keeffe. Denis, from Coolmoyne, being a family connection and Mary, from Carlow, had served her time in Powers Bookmakers Office in Fethard. It was my home from home for four years with happy memories. We all found work easily enough — Sean and myself in the cost accounting offices in the Austin Motor Works, Jim Heffernan in the sales department and Maurice joined an accounting company. We soon settled in joining the Gaelic League, Irish language classes and other activities, and formed a good circle of friends from almost every Irish county as well as Scots, Welsh and the friendly, homely Birmingham people. I joined St. Anne's hurling club, and was selected on the Warwickshire County team but my biggest hurling thrill of all was being on the secondary school team which won the Croke Cup beating Thurles in the final. Also on the team were Paddy Kenny, Jimmy Finn, Pat Stakelum and others who are now recorded in hurling history's pages.

We established St. Patrick's Club in Birmingham's Bournville Hotel, where we ran dances. After four years in Birmingham we all went further afield. Sean and Jim to Canada, Maurice to Leamington Spa and I went to London with a Mayo colleague, Sean McCann, a master baker and columnist on 'food ingredients'. London was far more impersonal than Birmingham. Fortunately, we had friends already there and eventually settled in. I ended up in Wimpeys Head Office doing cost accounts and budget procedures, where I gained a vast experience in

*Bill Quinlan at Fethard Hunt some years ago*

modern accounting controls on multi million contracts as far away as Lima, Hong Kong and Hirfannli. Entertainment was more or less the same as Birmingham. London had its majestic theatre-land, which eventually grabbed me. In Birmingham I already got a taste of drama, enjoyed a little writing there and got awards for essays and short stories and the odd poem. I won the Sullivan Dunne and McInerney Cup for an essay on Irish history, a huge trophy and success followed success with medals and book tokens.

After three years in London and now married, a decision was made to set up home in Dublin. After some time I got a post as accountant office manager. No sooner had I been appointed when offers came for a post in the Department of Education. I was also offered a clerical vacancy in Aer Lingus and Thurles sugar factory but I remained steadfast to what I was doing. Later I joined a civil engineering and contracting company where I was eventually placed on the Board of Directors carrying projects on Kevin Street College of Technology, the Irish Management Institute, and the Four Courts. In later years I worked in various areas of RTE. I found Dublin a great central point for many activities from sport to theatre to the salt of the earth "Dubs" with their wit as well as the humours of those who came from different parts of the country. An offer came to me from the Evening Herald to submit articles I had already written — 'Poetic Emigrants on the Old Kent Road', 'A gathering of Celts', 'Poems from a Navvy's Room' all unlocked from amusing and delightful experiences across the water. Eventually I went on to write a play titled 'The Curse' about our unfortunate Northern troubles which got an award at Listowel. My next

play 'The Movements of Mr. Brooker' a story based on the brushwork by the famous painter Degas to explore the theme of his paintings. This won a Whitehead Award and was produced at the Peacock Theatre. The producer was Barry Cassin who was a member of the Anew McMaster Company when they played in the Fethard town hall during McMaster's touring schedule. John Cowley (Tom Riordan of The Riordans) who originally made his acting debut in the town hall with Louis Dalton was offered the principal part but had theatrical commitments in Australia. The part was taken up by Martin Dempsey. In this play I feel I touched once again on an emigrants hope of returning where the character comes on stage reciting, "Peace, quiet, this little town of Garretstown, the hole in the wall they called it. Ah! for the dear gone past lifting a memory, like the movements of an eye looking and searching for the formula that's incomplete" Having had radio plays produced as well as other contributions, I will shortly have radio stories slotted in between programmes.

Looking back one could, I suppose, speak volumes of one's native place and travels. As Nicky English (Tipp. hurler) said to me above in RTE., "Fethard is a great place to be". Viewing the Dublin mountains from my home, I visualise Slievenamon in its mystic crest of blue, and Killusty and Kiltinan with their own pastoral scenes that reared families of the calibre of the Lees of Loughcopple, most of them County Footballers and certainly great people to have known, the Sheehans, and indeed other great characters in this twin parish which finds voice with its Fethard neighbours in many parts of the world.

***A link with the past***

*Pictured above with Mrs Christine Byrne (seated), wife of the late Mick Byrne, Killusty, are the three local Tipperary medal winners in the 1998 All-Ireland Junior Football Championship. L to R: Tommy Sheehan (Fethard), Willie Morrissey (Tullamaine), Noel Byrne (son of Mick Byrne) and his son Damien Byrne (Killusty). Mick Byrne was the last All-Ireland football medal holder from the parish, won in 1934.*

# Designer Rosemarie Walsh

Designer Rosemarie Walsh, Curraghtarsna, Fethard, was chosen to compete in a prestigious Smirnoff International Fashion Awards held in Dublin Castle on May 12th this year.

A fashion design student in Limerick Senior College, Rosemarie hopes to use the experience as the springboard to a top career. "I have always designed clothes from the time I discovered that I had a talent for it" says Rosemarie.

Rosemarie is a daughter of Sean and Josephine Walsh. Her father, also known as 'Glamour', was renowned in the county for his stylish hurling skills.

The brief for this year's awards was 'Metamorphosis' and students were asked to explore the idea of fashion's Metamorphosis creatively, and progress their ideas to produce two garments, one commercial and one avant-garde.

***Fethard to Fethard Walkers***

*Pictured above are the 'Fethard to Fethard' walkers and helpers on their return from a 52-mile walk from Fethard-on-Sea, Co. Wexford, to Fethard, Co. Tipperary. The walk commenced on 26 June this year and finished on Sunday 28 June. All proceeds go to local charities.*

# Convenience Shop

*by Liam Cloonan*

The Cross Stop is a convenience shop located at the junction of Main Street, Kerry Street, The Valley and the Cashel Road. Close to the Community Ballroom, it was formerly known as the 'Cross House' and was the residence of the late Johnny Halpin and his wife Margaret (nee Ryan) who was better known locally as Peg. I am sure that many emigrants can still picture Johnny Halpin propped up with his bicycle bringing his cows home to be milked or from the house to one of his fields on the opposite side of the town.

The basic structure of the Cross House is retained but the entrance was enlarged and the interior totally altered to take shop shelving and fridges. The Cross Stop was opened by Tom Hennessy on 26 July last year. A grand-nephew of the late Peg Halpin, Tom learned the supermarket trade with Supervalu in Tipperary. He got the idea of opening the shop from his many visits to Fethard when he found it difficult to find a shop opened, particularly late at night or on a Sunday afternoon. To ensure that no others meet with the same problem, Tom Hennessy opens the Cross Stop from 7am until 11pm — as the sign on the wall says, from early till late. Along with sweets and cigarettes, groceries and confectionery are available. You can also drop in for a paper or a bale of briquettes.

Take away food has proved to be very popular at the Cross Stop and the service includes breakfast rolls, sausage rolls, salad sandwiches and salad rolls. As part of a new service you can now have a big deal breakfast to take away which includes sausages, rashers, puddings and egg. A convenient service which is proving to be very popular from a convenient shop at the cross on the Cashel Road.

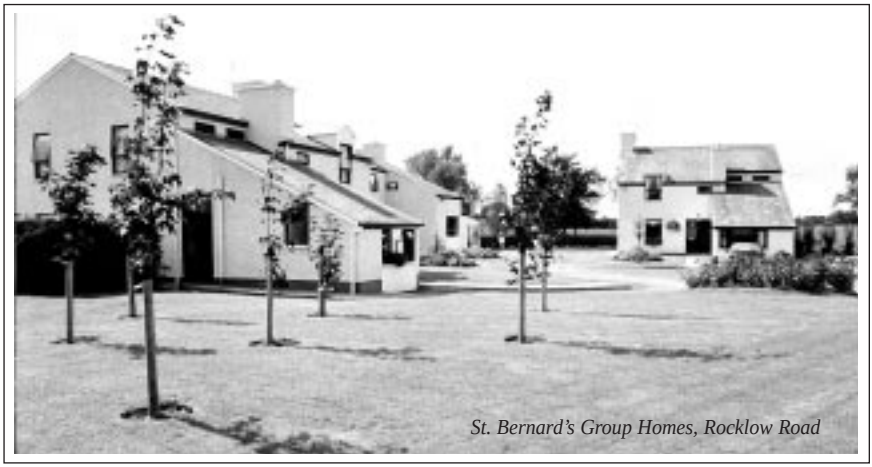
# St. Bernard's Group Homes

St. Bernard's Group Homes were set up in Fethard in 1975 to care for children and young people who can no longer live at home. The Homes are in the care of the Presentation Sisters who had previously been based in Dundrum House, now a modern luxury hotel and golf course.

At present, twenty children and young people reside at St. Bernard's – numbers fluctuate as children are fostered, return home or leave to commence independent living. Our goal is to provide as normal and meaningful a life as possible in a genuinely loving and supportive environment. All the children and young people in our care are given every opportunity to attend school and are encouraged to pursue their own interests whether in local community ventures, dancing, sport, holiday camps, guides, etc. We have always been fortunate that there is a quiet understanding of our work locally. We are very grateful for the extra funds that make the quality of life better for our children and young people. In 1995 St. Bernard's celebrated 20 years in providing a setting where brokenness can be healed and young people can begin again to live a full life.

In September this year, Sr. Éilís Bergin, who has worked in St. Bernard's Group Homes for the past eleven years, left Fethard to take up a new position as Provincial Councillor and is now based at the Provincialate in Dublin.

Sr. Éilís was born in Durrow and educated with the Presentation Sisters there. She entered in Kilkenny in 1965 and since then has served in Durrow, Ballingarry and Fethard. Having qualified as a Primary teacher in Carysfort, Blackrock, she enjoyed working in the educational field and did further study in the Institute of St. Anselm, Kent. Sr. Éilís' interest in facilitating groups of people has taken her to the United States, France, Australia, Malta, China and many other locations where she has given workshops on stress management, and the Enneagram. She speaks to school staff and to young people preparing for interview. While at St. Bernard's, Sr. Éilís continued the tradition began in 1975. We wish her well in her new position.



*St. Bernard's Group Homes, Rocklow Road*

*Starting school in Junior Infants class at Killusty National School are L to R: Nathalie Cahill, Grangebeg; Leanne Sheehan, Loughcopple; Anita Pollard, Fethard, and Seamus Holohan, Killusty.*

# Patrician Presentation Parents' Assoc

It's that time of year again when we are asked to put our thoughts together for the Annual Newsletter. It's hard to believe that a year has gone by since last we set about this task. Well, this year, like the previous one, has kept us busy. There is never a dull moment and I am always struck by the generosity of all those involved with their time and commitment.

The Patrician Presentation Parents Association is a very worthwhile organisation as it helps keep parents informed of school policies, plans and activities. It also helps to promote a better understanding between management, teachers and parents. By holding various fundraising events during the year we help raise money for the school, which Mr. Britton, principal, always puts to good use.

We held three such events that proved very successful — the Christmas hamper draw, table quiz and church gate collection. Our sincere thanks to all those who supported and helped us in any way. During the year we also helped out at a number of school activities: the party after the transition year show, the entrance exam day for incoming first years and their parents, the mock interviews, the leaving cert and transition year Masses. We also attended regional meetings in Thurles.

We held our AGM on 14th September '98 and the following officers and committee were elected: Chairperson Patsy Lawrence, Vice Chairperson Rita Kenny, Secretary Marie Corcoran, Assistant Secretary Yvonne Walsh, Treasurer Betty Walsh, Assistant Treasurer Denis Burke. Committee: Gerry Fogarty, Clare Hannigan, Margaret Doocey, Maureen Maher, Mary Hanrahan, Judy Doyle, Noreen Maher. Teachers: Paddy Broderick, Denis Burke and Ernan Britton.

It was decided that the money raised during the year should be spent on acquiring new books for the school library. We all agreed that anything that helped to promote reading among our young people was indeed very worthwhile.

A sincere thank you to our outgoing committee. Best wishes for 1999 to all our friends and supporters. Best of luck to all the students sitting exams next year.

# Fethard's Brasserie

*by Liam Cloonan*

*Mark and Diana Richardson with Paddy Lonergan in the intimate Forge Brasserie*

William Lonergan started business as a smith and farrier in the early 1800's just inside the town wall. More than likely an ale house or shebeen was included as the premises was licensed when the licencing laws were introduced in 1833. When William Lonergan died in the 1870's his son P.J. took over and operated a grocery and hardware business along with the bar. In 1952 the grocery and hardware sections were discontinued. Around 1963, Paddy Lonergan, the present owner, introduced the lounge bar to the business and in keeping with the changing times it was extended and became known as the Forge Tavern in 1966 to cope with the ballad boom. Many famous names like the Dubliners and some of the Clancy brothers are associated with Fethard's Forge Tavern. It was also the place where some of the locals got their first break in the entertainment business.

Paddy started 'pub grub' in Fethard in the mid eighties. He can still remember the Thursday in 1990 when Luci Pavarotti, who was in Coolmore, called for lunch. Some years ago he changed the name back to P.J. Lonergan and on June 14th this year The Sunday World's 'Pub Spy' featured Lonergan's as a comfortable establishment having to admit that there was something quaint about the toilet arrangement. He was surprised to find pristine clean modern facilities.

To compliment the fine selection of ales, wines and spirits along with the wholesome lunches available in the bar from Monday to Friday, evening dinner is now available in the Forge Brasserie at Lonergans. The Forge Brasserie is run by Mark and Diana Richardson who worked in nearby Coolmore for approximately two years. They started on October 31st with Mark looking after the front of house and Diana responsible for the

kitchen. The Brasserie opens at 6.30pm and last orders are taken at 9.30pm. It opens from Tuesday to Saturday and, according to Mark, they started the business because they saw the need for the service. They are delighted with the response and are very encouraged with the level of repeat orders. The a-la-carte menu is simple combining the best of local produce which is properly cooked, attractive and well presented. According to Mark, Diana adds that special touch with the presentation and introduces the customers to sauces, chutneys and jellies which compliment the dishes. The Brasserie at Lonergans is attached to the Bar and can cater for small groups but in any event booking is advisable.

# Census of Ireland 1841

*supplied by Michael Hall, Drangan*

## Civil Parishes in Fethard and Killusty Catholic Parish 1841

**FETHARD PARISH**

**(Total Families: 936, Total People: 4,410)**

Fethard Town: (Families: 852, People: 3,915), Commons: (F:45, P:226), Fethard: (F:14, P:92), Garrainch: (F:9, P:61), Glebe: (F:1, P:11), Grove: (F:1, P:8), Gurtagea: (F:1, P:4), Knockboorden: (F:3, P:24), Knockbrack: (F:1, P:5), Money Park: (F:0, P:0), Moonbeg: (F:4, P:30), Moonmore: (F:0, P:0), Spittlefield: (F:5, P:34).

**BAPTISTGRANGE PARISH**

**(Total Families: 103 - Total People: 782).**

Baptist Grange: (F:16, P:121), Clonakody: (F:9, P:71), Currageensharough: (F:16, P:124), Drumdel: (F:8, P:69), Lakefield (Ballygambon): (F:18, P:121), Miltown Britton: (F:18, P:152), Newtown: (F:9, P:61), Sladagh: (F:8, P:51), Tuoreen: (F:1, P:12).

**BARRETTSGRANGE PARISH**

**(Total Families: 68, Total People: 424)**

Barretts Grange: (F:18, P:108), Barrettstown: (F:18, P:130), Crossard, (Crossaun): (F:3, P:21), Glebe: (F:0, P:0), Glenagaddy: (F:11, P:69), Monroe: (F:18, P:96).

**KILTINAN PARISH**

**(Total Families: 180, Total People: 1,296)**

Ballinaclera: (F:1, P:9), Buolough: (F:30, P:201), Cappadrummin: (F:14, P:67), Clarebeg: (F:2, P:13), Claremore: (F:12, P:94), Grangebeg: (F:12, P:87), Killavally: (F:5, P:41), Killusty South: (F:10, P:69), Kiltinan: (F:27, P:220), Loughcopple: (F:4, P:51), Moonbarron: (F:2, P:8), Rathkenty: (F:10, P:70), Tinrush (Killusty North): (F:28, P:200), Tullow: (F:8, P:61), Walshbog: (F:15, P:105).

**TULLAMAIN PARISH**

**(Total Families: 104, Total People: 688)**

Bullockpark: (F:2, P:16), Coolmoyne: (F:20, P:136), Railestown: (F:5, P:29), Rathbrit: (F:10, P:58), Rathsalla: (F:14, P:80), Rosegreen: (F:21, P:143), Tullamain: (F:32, P:226).

**PEPPARDSTOWN PARISH**

**(Total Families: 176, Total People: 1,215)**

Cramps Castle: (F:17, P:102), Curraheen: (F:21, P:123), Everard's Grange: (F:4, P:29), Farranshee: (F:10, P:86), Higginstown: (F:2, P:12), Knockkelly: (F:39, P:307), Peppardstown: (F:3, P:25), Rathkenny: (F:41, P:302), Saucestown: (F:16, P:87), Tinnakelly: (F:23, P:142).

**RATHCOOL PARISH**

**(Total Families: 243, Total People: 1,677)**

Anne's Gift: (F:10, P:79), Ardsallagh: (F:2, P:10), Ballintemple: (F:9, P:59), Ballybought: (F:4, P:26), Ballyvaddy: (F:16, P:97), Carrigeen:

(F:19, P:126), Coolanure: (F:17, P:113), Coolmore: (F:11, P:76), Coolmoyne Fennel: (F:38, P:239), Coolmoyne Taylor: (F:11, P:70), Curraghscarteen: (F:12, P:78), Derryluskane: (F:23, P:162), Farranaleen: (F:7, P:42), Glebe: (F:0, P:0), Grangeduff: (F:3, P:27), Gurteen Shamrogue: (F:4, P:27), Kilnockan: (F:25, P:172), Prospect: (F:4, P:33), Rathavin: (F:7, P:62), Rathcool: (F:5, P:59), Rock Low (F:2, P:23), Saucestown: (F:3, P:19), Slainstown: (F:1, P:12), Slainstown North: (F:2, P:11), Slainstown South: (F:8, P:55).

**COOLMUNDRY PARISH**

**(Total Families: 48 - Total People: 350).**

Bannixtown: (F:7, P:68), Bawnkeal: (F:0, P:0), Butler's Land: (F:2, P:12), Byrnskill: (F:1, P:10), Castle Higgins: (F:0, P:0), Friar's Grange: (F:12, P:68), Quarter Cross: (F:9, P:53), Raheenrue: (F:6, P:48), Roebuck's Land: (F:8, P:59), Strike Lower: (F:2, P:13), Strike Upper: (F:1, P:19).

**KILBRAGH PARISH**

**(Total Families: 52 - Total People: 362).**

Bauntaunvoher: (F:3, P:17), Glanasland: (F:3, P:17), Kilbragh: (F:6, P:43), Lowe's Green: (F:3, P:30), Railestown: (F:8, P:67), Rathmacarty East: (F:14, P:78), Rathmacarty West: (F:11, P:76), Tullamain: (F:4, P:34).

**KILCONNELL PARISH**

**(Total Families: 101 - Total People: 655).**

Buffana: (F:17, P:145), Caugherbawn: (F:34, P:189), Kilconnell: (F:31, P:205), Kilsallagh: (F:19, P:116).

**REDCITY PARISH**

**(Total Families: 36, Total People: 238)**

Madam's Land: (F:1, P:13), Red City: (F:15, P:99), Brodeen (Bishopland): (F:20, P:126).

# Paddy Dalton Honoured

The County Tipperary N&B Association of New York honoured Fethard's Paddy Dalton by making him 'Guest of Honour' at their 124th Annual Banquet held at Riccardo's, New York, on Sunday March 22nd.

The President, in her address at the Ball said: "Tonight we honour a great Gael from Fethard. He is as proud of his Irish culture today as he was when he arrived in this great land in 1954. He is of a unique few who had the honour and expertise to win no fewer than five Tipperary senior hurling medals in five consecutive N.Y. Championships. Congratulations Paddy."

Paddy was a member of the Tipperary team which won five N.Y. hurling championships in a row, and a member of the great Cork football team which made Paddy a dual winner on the same day in 1955. He also represented New York as an all star in hurling and football in the fifties.

Another of those unforgettable days in the life of Paddy Dalton took place in 1958 when he married the beautiful Mary Ellen (Nellie) Rockett, who comes from Carrick-On-Suir, Co. Tipperary. This happy union was blessed with four lovely and loving children, Frances, John, Marie and Michael.

After arriving in New York Paddy went to work for Merchants Refrigeration Company. He remained there for over 15 years. Paddy then went on to work for the New York Transit Authority until he retired in 1989 – but not for long. After making a few memorable trips back to Ireland, Paddy was asked to take a job as a security guard at John F. Kennedy International Airport. Paddy said, "OK, I'll give it a try for a few months." He must have fitted in well, as he is still there and enjoying it. He

says he is playing out his last quarter, and is contemplating asking for a sub.

His family and friends joined in saluting Paddy for his sterling contributions to Gaelic sports in Ireland and the USA. The Tipperary N. & B. Association is proud to pay this tribute to Paddy Dalton. Best wishes from all the members of the Association to Paddy, Nellie and family on this great occasion.

May good health, happiness and prosperity follow them into the future.

*Irish Volunteers 1914*

*This photograph was supplied by Joan Merriman, Dublin, featuring the Irish Volunteers in Fethard in 1914. The postcard was belonging to her mother, Mrs Creed, who worked in Fethard Post Office at that time. Michael O'Donnell, from Owning, gave us the following information: "These volunteers often drilled about Kilnockin and they used guns made of timber. But this was not unusual as I recall Major Hughes telling me that when he went to Cahir (I think it was) to train he also had to use a wooden gun because of the shortage of armaments. My father also told me that the later, post-1918, Volunteers were trained by Paddy O'Donnell of The Green and Dick Butler from The Valley. Both had seen service in the British Army. R. M. O'Hanrahan was the Officer Commanding. Row 1: 1. Ned Sheehan, Red City; 2 John Ryan, Sparagoleith; 3 Mickie Napier, Rocklow Road; 4 Jack Fitzgerald, Main St.; 5 not known; 6. Martin Tierney, Kerry St.; 7. Willie Walsh, Monroe; 8. Jim Carty, Sparagoleith; 9. Paddy Gleeson, Knockelly; 10. William Carey, near The Abbey. Row 2: 1. Jimmy Brien, Market Hill; 2. John O'Fitzgerald, The Back Green (later of St. Patrick's Place); 3. Tom Corcoran, The Valley; 4. not known; 5. not known; 6. not known; 7. not known; 8. Piery Napier, Abbey St.; 9 Mickie Mara, Burke St.; 10. Tom Finn, Burke St. Row 3: 1. Jimmy Connell, St. John's Hill. 2. Dave Hayes, Mockler's Terrace. Row 4; 1. Patrick O'Flynn, Burke St.; 2. P.J. Henehan, Main Street; 3. not known; 4 not known; 5. not known; 6. not known; 7. ? Power, Rocklow; 8. Willie Leahy, The Green; 9. not known; 10 not known; 11. Larry Doyle, Back Green; 11. 'Oily' Keating, The Valley. Row 5: Patrick Daniel, Watergate St (the man with the beard and large hat); this was all he recalled in this row. Row 6: Did not know anybody. Row 7; Only knew Ned Cummins, Ball-alley (And which he was I now don't know as I did not mark his features accurately)."*

# Fethard Connections

## *Amanda's Tipp roots*

The Ulster finalist in this year's Rose of Tralee contest, Amanda Dunne (pictured above) has strong Tipp connections. Amanda is from Cavan but her grand-mother was Eileen Cummins from Cashel Road, Fethard while she often visits her cousin Richard Cummins who still lives there. She has an aunt, Noreen Nugent, and a grand uncle, Edward Cummins, both in Clonmel, and a grand uncle Jim Cummins in Bohermore, Cashel.

## *Back from Australia*

John Stokes who recently returned from Australia and is now residing in Fethard with his New Zealand born wife, Melissa, and daughter Caroline has joined the firm of Stokes & Quirke Limited, 9, Sarsfield Street, Clonmel (opposite the Clonmel Arms Hotel). John, son of Dr. & Mrs Patrick Stokes, Main Street, Fethard, went to Australia after graduating from university with B.Sc. in Estate Management was employed by Richard Ellis the International Property firm.

John is a direct descendant (4th generation) of the original founders of the firm Stokes & Quirke, which was founded in 1896. Tel 052 21788 Fax 052 21326 Mobile 086 8213777

## *New Tipperary Book*

A new 350 page hardback book "Dictionary of Tipperary Biography' will catalogue the influence of Tipperary people world wide with many Fethard personalities included. Price is £25 and can be ordered from: Martin O'Dwyer, Cashel Folk Village, Cashel, Co. Tipperary. Tel: (062) 65225.

# More videos for hire than ever

*by Liam Cloonan*

In December 1991 Night Owl opened its rental video shop in Fethard. To cater for the increasing demand the shop in Main Street soon needed to be enlarged. In October 1997 Con Ryan temporarily moved next door to the vacant premises owned by Alice Holloway. A year later he moved back to the totally refurbished premises and he is grateful to Alice for her assistance.

Due to the improvements to the premises, Con Ryan says that customers can now choose from about 1500 videos. Along with all the latest and popular titles he also provides video games, Playstation, Nintendo 64 and some older Sega Mega-Drive games.

The Night Owl video shop opens seven days a week from 11.30am to 10pm, closing for lunch from 1.30 and 2.30pm. Times may have changed but it is nice to know that in Fethard you can still obtain an average of 2 hours entertainment from between £1.00 and £2.50.

# Fethard Macra na Feirme

The past year was a very enjoyable one for Fethard Macra na Feirme. With some great wins in competitions and with weekends away and the usual active social life there was something for everyone to enjoy.

Our Christmas party was held in Cahir House Hotel. We joined forces with most of the other clubs in the South to make it one of the most enjoyable parties ever. We had an extremely successful year as regards competitions. Our debating team of David Corbett, Mairéad Croke, John Fitzgerald and Corina Morrissey made it to the All-Ireland Debating Final and were very unlucky to be beaten on the night by Castleblayney. Special thanks must go to Brendan Morrissey and Pamela O'Donnell (nee Morrissey - more on that later) who filled in so ably as substitutes when needed and of course to the debating coach, Martha Sheehan, who as always gave much needed help and inspiration over many months of practice and was always there with words of encouragement. Thanks Martha!

*Lorraine Morrissey - Macra Queen of the Land*

In other competitions, Brendan Morrissey won both the South and County titles in the Impromptu Public Speaking and was only narrowly beaten in the regional final. However, he was determined to taste victory and he did so by winning the All-Ireland Senior Sheep Stockjudging title at Tullamore Show.

Fethard Macra also made it to the All-Ireland finals of the Know Your Agriculture team quiz and to the All-Ireland Mixed Volleyball final. We also won the South title in the Macra Capers competition and our Ladies Soccer team have recently qualified for the soccer finals. We were also awarded the club of the year trophy at Cahir Show during the summer.

Our greatest success in competition was when club member Lorraine Morrissey was crowned Macra Queen of the Land in Tullamore in November. This competition was held over three days and Lorraine impressed everyone connected with the competition with her winning ways and was by all accounts a very popular winner. She has a very busy year ahead of her with various competitions to judge and also a trip to America where she will appear on CNN television. All in the club congratulate her and wish her all the best in the coming year.

As always we continue to play volleyball, soccer, bowling and go swimming on a regular basis. This year we decided to organize drama workshops with a professional facilitator and these have proved to be very

successful and may be repeated this year.

On a community level, we have members on the Community Council and on the Fethard Ballroom committee. We also continue to hold our annual Table Quiz for the St. Vincent de Paul

As usual in Fethard Macra romance is always in the air. Many congratulations to Declan Morrissey and Cathriona Horan who will be taking a trip up the aisle in 1999. If Declan needs any tips on organising the wedding he can always ask his sister Pamela who beat him to it when she married Dermot O'Donnell on a glorious Saturday in August. To both couples, the very best of good fortune and happiness. At our AGM the following officers were elected: Chairperson: Corina Morrissey, Secretary: Mairéad Croke, Treasurer: Patricia Morrissey PRO: Amanda Kelly

If you are looking for a way to meet new people, travel, learn new skills, take part in competitions or just to have a better social life and if you are aged between 17-35 then Macra na Feirme is just the organisation for you. Any member of our committee or any club member would be delighted to hear from you.

# Sister Philomena steps down

*Long Island Catholic*

This year Sister Philomena O'Brien, St. Ursula Retreat Center, Blue Point, New York, stepped down after 16 years as centre director.

People come from all over to the centre — the place is booked until the next millennium — to find solitude, peace and spiritual growth. But when they get here, they frequently find it difficult to turn off the busy buzz of their lives. Sister Philomena tells them, with a trace of a gentle brogue, to reflect on a passage from Jeremiah 29: "For I know well the plans I have in mind for you . . . when you look for me, you will find me."

*Sr. Philomena O'Brien*

It's a kernel of spiritual insight which Sister Philomena has found rang true in her own life. In October, she celebrated her 80th birthday and stepped down as director of the Retreat Center, a position she has held for the past 16 years.

God is everywhere, she tells a visitor, making the theological point before overwhelming him with a half-dozen loaves of freshly-baked bread from the retreat house kitchen to take home. It's a matter of opening our eyes to seeing. A Retreat Center such as St. Ursula's located near the placid waters of the Great South Bay, can provide a lens to open eyes.

She is counted upon for such wisdom. Sister Philomena frequently provides spiritual direction for priests, sisters and lay people who journey to the Retreat Center. It's a duty she plans to continue after her retirement. It's a far cry from when, as a 17-year-old novice, she came here from Fethard in County Tipperary, Ireland, to join the Ursuline Sisters, following a sister and an aunt into the community which was just becoming established on Long Island.

"I didn't know anything about the Ursulines at all," she recalled during a recent interview with The Long Island Catholic. "I just knew I was going away to do something for God." That "something for God" developed into 63 years in religious life, a time she spent as a teacher, principal, superior for her community, and retreat director. At every stop, she said, she learned more about God's presence in her daily life. "I see the hand of God in everything we do. Sometimes he's a God of surprises," she said.

As a teacher at Our Lady of Grace School in Howard Beach, Queens (one of her students was Yankees' manager Joe Torre), Sister Philomena communicated her love of learning. While she was there, from 1939 to 1959, she earned a doctorate in history from St. John's University.

After six years as principal of a school in Connecticut, she took on what may have been her most demanding job: from 1965 to 1975, the height of the turbulent post-Vatican II era, she was provincial of her community.

"It was the hard times when everything was changing," she recalled. Some Sisters at the time argued that more changes were needed: others contended that the community needed to retain more traditions. "You had to meet all the needs," she said. "People were leaving very rapidly in numbers that were never heard of before." But she recalled that her faith did not waver. "I knew there was something behind it all. There was a God."

Since her term as provincial, she has focused on retreat work. Much of that time has been spent in spiritual direction, a process in which people come to her and talk about how God is working in their lives. It is a delicate task, she said, something for which she prepared for years at a Jesuit Center in Canada. Before meeting someone for spiritual direction, she said, "I pray a lot, I ask the Lord to inspire me with thoughts better than my own."

Business has never been better at the Retreat Center, a phenomenon, as highlighted in a recent article in Time Magazine, which is happening around the country. The growing numbers of retreatants tell a story about a burgeoning spiritual awareness in the wider culture, said Sister Philomena.

"People are tired of all the materialism. It doesn't satisfy them," she said. "There's a real thirst for God and spiritual growth," she said.

## *Old friends meet*

*Ned Power (right) sent us this photograph of himself and his next door neighbour Tod Keating who met for the first time this August after 48 years. They both contacted and arranged to meet after spending a holiday in Fethard. Both were reared in St. Patrick's Place.*

# Donations Received

*Acknowledged below are donations (£5 and over) received from readers and organisations up to 30th Nov. 1998. We would like to thank you for your generous support including all those who wished to remain anonymous. Please send donations to: Carmel Rice, Annual Newsletter, Brookhill, Fethard, Co. Tipperary.*

*Ahearne, Joe, Fethard Arms, Fethard,*
*Ahearne, Mona, London N4*
*Ahearne, Paddy & Kitty, Fethard*
*Allen, Augustin, Grimsby*
*Allen, Vincent, Edenderry*
*Anglim, George K., Texas, USA*
*Anglim, Monica (Woodlock), New Jersey*
*Arkell, Joan (O'Donnell), Warwick*
*Armstrong, Monica (Dwyer), Northampton*
*Augustinian Abbey, Fethard*
*Aylward, Mrs. Mary, Bray*
*Aylward, Tony & Paula, Naas*
*Barnard, Brian, Castine, Maine*
*Barrett, Angela (McCarthy), Ardfinnan*
*Barry, Michael, Kilkenny*
*Barry, Rev. Fr. Michael, Borrisoleigh*
*Bogue, Michael, Clonmel*
*Boland, Claire (O'Neill), Dunlaoghaire*
*Bourne, Mary (Sheehan), Cape Town, S.A.*
*Broderick, Paddy & Nell, Fethard*
*Burke, Eamonn & Nora, Tralee, Co. Kerry*
*Burke, James, San Francisco*
*Burke, Kevin, Illinois, USA*
*Burke, Patrick, Milwaukee, Wisconsin*
*Burke, Patrick J., Santa Monica, California*
*Burke, Patsy (Byard), Killenaule*
*Butler, Jenny, Fethard*
*Butler, Kitty (Hayes), Thurles*
*Butler, Sean, Lisronagh*
*Byrne Healy, Peg, New Jersey*
*Canty, Mary (Casey), Tramore*
*Carey, Johnnie, Fethard*
*Carey, Sr. Paula, Howard Beach, N.Y.*
*Carroll, Mary (Morrissey), Nuneaton*
*Casey, Michael & Katherine (Delaney), Cambridge*
*Cassells, Austin, Wolverhampton, England*
*Chrysanthemum Show Committee*
*Clarke, Jim, Fethard*
*Clarke, Mrs. Anne, London NW10*
*Clarke, Sean, Marlfield, Clonmel*
*Coady, Johnnie & Mary, Dorset*
*Coen, Michael, London W1*
*Coffey, Rita, New Ross*
*Colville, Peggy (Ryan), Fethard*
*Comerford, Esther (Nevin), Kilkenny*
*Connolly, Jimmy & Ann (O'Neill), Fethard*
*Connolly, Joan (O'Meara), Ballybunion*
*Corcoran, Grace (Smyth), Sligo*
*Cormack, Paddy & Jimmy, Kilnockin, Fethard*
*Country Markets, Fethard*
*Croke, Wm., London SE3, England*
*Crowley, Maura (Butler), Ballyneale*
*Cummins, Dick & Margaret, Main Street, Fethard*
*Cummins, Ellen & Eddie, Clonmel*
*Cummins, Grainne, Hampshire ('97 & '98)*
*Cummins, Gus, Peterborough*
*Cummins, John, Dublin 5*
*Cummins, Liam, Clonmel*
*Cummins, Owen & Donal, New York*
*Cummins, Sheamus & Theresa, Fethard*
*Cummins, Tom & Ellen, Goatenbridge*
*Curran, Timmy, Welwyn Garden City*
*Curtin, La (Walsh), Fethard*
*Dalton, Claire (Morrissey), London NW10*
*Dalton, Joe & Annie (Sayers), Peterborough*
*Dalton, Paddy, Howard Beach, N.Y.*
*Danaher, Mrs. Bridie, London W14*
*Dawson, Martina (Murphy), Cappamore*
*Delahunty, Eddie, Market Hill, Fethard*
*Delany, C.P., Parsons Hill, Fethard*
*Delguidice, Peggy and Mick, London EC1*
*Devlin, Rainy (Healy), West Virginia*
*Devlin, Rev Mgr B. P., Gibraltar*
*Dineen, James, California*
*Donovan, Mrs. Tess, Crawley, West Sussex*
*Downey, James, Bournemouth*
*Duggan, Brigid (Treacy), Clonmel*
*Duggan, Eugene, Christchurch, New Zealand*
*Duggan, Paul, Den Haag, Holland*
*Duncan, Mary (Bulfin), Capetown, South Africa.*
*Dwyer, Geraldine (Fitzgerald), Newmarket On Fergus*
*Evans, Bob & Karin, Germany*
*Everard, Richard, Holland*
*Fadugba, Joan (Pollard), London NW6*
*Fagan, Mrs. Mary, Naas, Co. Kildare*
*Fahy, Brigid (O'Dwyer), New York*
*Fallon, Elaine, New York*
*Farrell, John, Boldmere, West Midlands*
*Fennell, Kathleen, Middlesex*
*Fethard Bridge Club*
*Fethard Civil Defence Unit*
*Fethard & District Coursing Club*
*Fethard Historical Society*
*Fethard Juvenile GAA Club*
*Fethard Judo Club (Trustees)*
*Fethard & Killusty Angling Club*
*Fethard Legion of Mary*
*Fethard Senior GAA Club*
*Fethard to Fethard Walkers Committee*
*Finn, Simon, Cornwall, England*
*Fitzgerald, Con, Bradford, West Yorkshire,*
*Fitzgerald, Michael & Mary (Carroll), Fethard*
*Fitzgerald, Paddy, Wrexham*
*Fitzpatrick, Thomas, Bronx, New York*
*Flanagan, Frank & Rita (Fitzgerald), Bristol*
*Fleming, Jack, Fethard*
*Flynn, Denis, Redhill, Surrey*
*Flynn, John P., Yorkshire*
*Flynn, Pat, West Yorkshire, England*
*Fogarty, Joey & Leish, Fethard*
*Fogarty, Joseph, Tramore*
*Fox, Andy, Thurles*
*Frewen, Willie, Tramore*
*Gildea, Josie (O'Connell), Romford, Essex*
*Gleeson, Francis (Walsh), Thurles*
*Gleeson, Pauline (Ryan), Boherlahan*

*Glover, Bruce & Jane (Napier), Sawtell, Australia*
*Gluck, Kathleen (Morrissey), Isle of Wight*
*Gorman, Alice (Halpin), Naas, Co Kildare*
*Gorski, Alice (Fitzgerald), Middlesex*
*Gough-Risk, Mrs. Patricia, California*
*Grimson, Douglas, Queensland, Australia*
*Gunne, Sean, Clonmel*
*Hackett, Austin, Yorkshire*
*Haide, Theresa (Quinlan), Bucks.*
*Harrington, Liam, Dublin 16*
*Harrington, William, Cavan*
*Hayes, Anne (Byrne), Illinois, USA*
*Hayes, Dr. J.G., Zimbabwe*
*Hayes, Jimmy & Sally, Fethard*
*Hayes, Joe & Mossie (McCarthy), Fethard*
*Hayes, John, Toronto, Canada*
*Hayes, Pat & Mary (Anglim), Queensland*
*Hayes, Rev. Fr. Matthew, Bath*
*Hayes, Willie, Roscrea*
*Heffernan, Larry & Inger, Oslo, Norway*
*Heffernan, Paddy & Joan, Ballyvaden, Fethard*
*Hehir, Mary (O'Dwyer), Bronx, N.Y.*
*Hennessy, Mary (Skeehan), Coleman*
*Hetterley, David & Frances (Kenrick), Hereford*
*Hickey, Mrs Stephen, Lixnaw, Co. Kerry*
*Hickey, Patricia (Heffernan), Bennettsbridge*
*Hoey, Cathleen (Murphy), Birmingham, England*
*Holohan O.F.M., Bro. Declan, Dublin 8*
*Hopkins, Mary (O'Connell), Victoria, Australia.*
*Humphreys, Doreen, Shrewley, Warwick*
*Hunt, Maureen (Mackey), Staffordshire*
*Kane, Conor, Wicklow*
*Kane, Danny & Rita (Kenny), Fethard*
*Kane, David, Essex*
*Kane, Dermot, Dublin 8*
*Kavanagh, Rena (Keyes), Waterford*
*Keane, John, Tullamore*
*Keane, Mrs Alice, Fethard*
*Keating, Tod, Carrigaline*
*Kelley Jr., John J., Laurel, MD, U.S.A.*
*Kelly, Geraldine (Fallon), Nass, Co. Kildare*
*Kelly, Mary (Cummins), Ruislip, Middlesex*
*Kelly, Thomas, St. Albans*
*Kelly, Vera (Stokes), Cork*
*Kennedy, Rev. Fr. A. B., Portumna*
*Kenny, Maura (Stokes), Dublin 6*
*Kenny Photo Graphics, Fethard*
*Kenrick, Joseph E., London NW9*
*Kenrick, Paddy, Clonmel*
*Kevin, Sr. Monica, New York*
*Leahy, John, Grantham, Lincs.*
*Lonergan, John, Cork*
*Lonergan, Paddy, Publican, Fethard*
*Lonergan, Thomas, Preston*
*Lonergan, William, Nenagh*
*Looby, Pat & Ann (Shine), Fethard*
*Low, David J., Liverpool*
*Lynam, Ann (Morrissey), Dublin 12*
*Magnuson, Harold & Mary (Hackett), Bellevue,WA*
*Maher, Geraldine, Kilkenny*
*Maher, John, Lemington Spa*
*Maher, John & Anne, Southport, USA*
*Maher, M.C. & Eileen, Fethard*
*Malone, Mary (Maher), New York*
*Mann, Bridget (Sheehan), East Ham, London*
*Marshall, Frank, Kilkenny*
*Marshall, Tom & Patricia, Portlaoise*
*Martley, Sr. Margaret, Lima, Peru*
*McCarthy, Don, Leixlip*
*McCarthy, Kitty, Fethard & New York*
*McCarthy, Mrs. S., Cambridge*
*McCarthy, Sr. Mary J., Blue Point, New York*
*McCarthy, Sr. Vincent, Stamford, C.T.*
*McCormack, Fergus, Copenhagen, Denmark*
*McCormack, Mrs.L., New Zealand*
*McCormack, Thomas, Gwynedd, Wales*
*McCormack-Herkommer, Lorraine, Germany*
*McCormack-John, Rita, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne*
*McGrath, Mick & Kitty, Edgeware, Middlesex*
*McLaughlin, Mary (King), Dorchester, Mass.*
*McNamee, Mary (King), Wantage, Oxon.*
*McNulty, Mary (Maher), Bedford*
*Meaney, James J., London SW19*
*Meaney, Michael, Ipswich*
*Meehan, Mrs. Ellen, Oklahoma*
*Merrick, Sr. Norah, Thurles*
*Moloney, Patrick F., Bucks.*
*Moloney, Seamus, Okawville, Illinois*
*Moloney, Tom, Northampton*
*Moore, Mary (Gorey), Drogheda*
*Morrissey, Colm, Delgany, Co.Wicklow*
*Morrissey, J. J., Tralee, Co. Kerry.*
*Morrissey, Mrs. Joan, Nr. Tewkesbury, Glos.*
*Morrissey, Patsy, Swords, Co Dublin*
*Morrissey, Sean, Newcastle Upon Tyne*
*Morrissey, Teresa (McCarthy), Ballymacarby*
*Mulcahy, Jackie, Lincoln, England*
*Mullins, Denis, New Jersey*
*Mullins, Margaret, Fethard Folk Museum*
*Mullins, Vincent, North Yorks.*
*Murphy, Ellen (Heffernan), Fethard*
*Murphy, Maria (O'Donovan), Hornchurch, Essex*
*Murray, Pat, Watford, Herts.*
*Nagle, Anastasia (Kelly), Bansha*
*Neville, Michael, Cork*
*Neville, Roger, Tullamore*
*Neville, Seamus, Tramore*
*Nevin, Chris, Gateway B&B, Fethard*
*Nevin, Gerry, New York*
*Newport, Tony & Mary (Kenny), Fethard*
*Nichols, Betty (Dineen), Warwick*
*O'Brien, Jane, Floral Park, N.Y.*
*O'Brien, Mary, London NW3*
*O'Brien, Sr. Margaret, New York*
*O'Brien, Sr. Philomena, Blue Point, N.Y.*
*O'Callaghan, Sean, Fethard*
*O'Connell, Dolly, Fethard*
*O'Connell, Don, Fethard*
*O'Connell, Jimmy, Romford, Essex*
*O'Connell, Peg (Darcy), Basildon, Essex*
*O'Connell, Peter, Victoria, Australia*
*O'Connor, Joan (Brett), Fethard*
*O'Connor, Mary, Westport*
*O'Connor, Peggy (O'Shea), London N4*
*O'Connor, Stephen, Devon, England*
*O'Connor, O.S.A., Rev. Fr. John, Ballyhaunis*
*O'Donnell, Anna (Mackey), Niles, Illinois*
*O'Donnell, Jim & Betty (O'Sullivan), Minnesota*
*O'Donnell, Jimmy, Dublin 16*
*O'Donnell, Joe , Killiney, Co. Dublin*
*O'Donnell, Mary (O'Meara), Ontario, Canada*
*O'Donnell, Michael, London N4*

*O'Donnell, Patrick, London NW8*
*O'Dwyer, Joe, St. Patrick's Place, Fethard*
*O'Dwyer, Johnnie & Chris, Fethard*
*O'Flynn, Mr & Mrs Jack, Lwr. Main Street, Fethard.*
*O'Flynn, Patrick, Glen Ellyn, Illinois*
*O'Flynn, Peggy, Ballincollig*
*O'Gorman, Paddy, Woking, Surrey.*
*O'Keeffe, Larry & Helen (Cummins), Clonmel*
*O'Keeffe, Michael & Hazel, Birmingham*
*O'Mahoney, Laura (Ward), Ballybay*
*O'Neill, Hal, Cork*
*O'Neill, Hugh, Luxembourg*
*O'Neill, Ken, Dublin 6*
*O'Neill, Martin, Six-Mile-Bridge*
*O'Reilly, John, Hemel Hempstead, Herts.*
*O'Reilly, Rita (Walsh), Dunadry, Co.Antrim*
*O'Shea, Patrick, Mexbrough, South Yorks*
*O'Shea, Thomas, Perth, W. Australia*
*O'Sullivan, Brian & Edith, Ayr, Scotland*
*O'Sullivan, Donal & Marie (McCarthy), Fethard*
*Olmstead, Joe & Rose (Byrne), San Diago*
*Ostler, Alice (McInerney), Southampton*
*Paine, Vera (O'Donovan), St. Marys, Cambs.*
*Patrician Presentation, Parents Association,*
*Pereira, Gearldine (White), Madeira*
*Perkins, Biddy (Power), Cheltenham*
*Phelan, Bridie, Fethard*
*Phelan, Kathleen (Elsie), New York*
*Pius, Sr., Thurles*
*Power, Marty, Kilmacthomas*
*Power, Michael, Wolverhampton*
*Power, Ned, Wolverhampton*
*Purcell, Eamonn, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway*
*Querns, Mary (Watts), Middlesex*
*Quinn, May (Moloney), Waterford*
*Quirke, Mrs. Mary, Fethard*
*Red Cross Society, Fethard*
*Roberts, Alice (Flynn), South Australia*
*Roche, Peggy (Kenny), Thurles*
*Ryan, Joe, Essen, Germany*
*Ryan, John (Boxer), Kilsheelan*
*Ryan, Mary (Murphy), Cashel*
*Ryan, Michael J., St. Albans, Herts.*
*Ryan, Mrs. J., London N8*
*Ryan, Noel, Surrey*
*Ryan, Philip, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow*
*Sayers, Mrs Christine, Bristol*
*Sayers, Mrs Joyce, Bristol*
*Sayers Family, St. Patrick's Place, Fethard*
*Sharkey, Neil, Galway*
*Shattock, Jack & Pan (Myles), Essex*
*Sheehan, Patrick, London N17*
*Shine, Nessa (O'Donovan), London E7*
*Shortall, Nellie (Fitzpatrick), Fethard*
*Skehan, Anne, Coolbawn, Fethard*
*Slattery, John, Coolmoyne*
*Slattery, Richard, London NW10*
*Smith, Margaret (Murphy), Fethard*
*Smith, Robert, Waltham Abbey, Essex*
*Sparks, Kathleen (Murphy), Barking, Essex*
*Squires, May (O'Dwyer), Essex*
*Staehelin, Linda (Kane), Galway*
*Stapleton, Martin & Rita (O'Grady), Dublin 7*
*Staunton, Rena (Stokes), London NW1*
*Stokes, Diana, Fethard*
*Sullivan, Deirdre (Phelan), Whangarei, New Zealand.*
*Synnott, Thomas, Basildon, Essex*
*Synnott, Tony, Clane, Co. Kildare*
*Szwarc, Agnes (Culligan), Kent*
*Taylor, Margaret (O'Connell), Fethard*
*Tidy Towns Committee, Fethard*
*Tipperary Heritage Unit, Tipp Town*
*Tobin, P.J., Dublin 15*
*Tobin, Patrick & Ellen (Walsh), South Harrow*
*Torpey, Kitty (Strappe), Cambridge,*
*Trehy - Halliday, Max, Sydney*
*Tumpane, Breda (Lucey), Sallins*
*Tyska, Katherine (Sayers), Brooklyn, N.Y.*
*Vinten, Joan (O'Shea), Maidstone*
*Voss, Eileen (Morrissey), Surrey*
*Wade-Palmer, Eileen (Doherty), Hampshire*
*Wagner, Rita (Fallon), New York*
*Waldron, Paul & Joan (Quinlan), Clonmel*
*Walker, Eleanor (O'Donnell), Australia*
*Walsh, Anne (Kenrick), Glenageary, Co Dublin*
*Walsh, Jim, Hayes, Middlesex*
*Walsh, Mrs. Agnes, Lincolnshire*
*Walsh, Pat, Leeds*
*Walsh, Rita, New York*
*Walsh, Tom, Buffana, Killenaule.*
*Walsh, O.S.A., Rev. Fr. Joseph, Victoria, Australia*
*Whelan, Jimmy & Susan, Preston*
*Whelan, Kathleen (Quirke), Clonmel*
*White, Eileen (Leahy), Drangan*
*White, Marie (Dineen), Leamington Spa*
*Whyte, John & Maureen (Mockler), Fethard.*
*Whyte, Michael, Leicestershire*
*Wright, Mrs. A., Wantage, Oxon*
*Wyatt, Paul, San Francisco, USA*
*Wynne, Monica (Dwyer), Clonmel*

*If, for any reason, we have omitted your name, please let us know and we will acknowledge next year.*

## *Annual Newsletter Contacts*

***Articles for publication, mailing list or information***

*Address: Editor, Joe Kenny, Rocklow Road, Fethard, Co. Tipperary.*
*Tel: 052 31663 Fax: 052 31817*
*E-mail: newsletter@fethard.com*
*Web Site: www.fethard.com*

***Donations, letters, etc.***

*Address: Carmel Rice, Brookhill, Fethard, Co. Tipperary.*
*Tel: 052 31134*

# SLIEVENAMON PILGRIMAGE — 15 AUGUST 1998

**VISIT FETHARD EVERY DAY**
**on the internet**

# www.fethard.com

**CURRENT NEWS — PHOTOGRAPHS**
**TOURIST INFORMATION**
**RESEARCH — HISTORY**
Fethard at your Fingertips
**UPDATED DAILY**

**ISSN 1393-2721**